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Portugal's *National* Newspaper in English

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P. 30

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Car sales up 72 percent in March

After a gloomy 2009, the worst ever in the history of the Portuguese motor industry, new car sales have recorded an astonishing recovery in recent months. (See Page 3)

Carvoeiro traders unite in bid to reverse road revamp

Once one of the most popular and picturesque areas of the Algarve, locals in Carvoeiro, Lagoa claim both tourism and takings have suffered as a result of the road revamp and have promised a fight to reverse this trend. (See Page 7)

Portugal's petrol fifth most expensive in EU

During the last three months of 2009 Portugal had the fifth most expensive petrol of all 27 EU state-members, thanks to the price of its unleaded 95, according to a report from the fuel market's Authority for Competition (AdC). (See Page 12)

Spring fair in the air

The International Algarve Fair is now firmly established as an annual event the foreign community in the Algarve waits for with eager anticipation; the dates have been confirmed, the agenda's bursting and the stands practically sold-out. (See Page 55)

Portuguese unfit says EU study

Over half of the Portuguese population does not practice any sport whatsoever, the third highest value in the European Union, according to a study from the European Commission released in Brussels. (See Page 56)

Weekend weather

Lisbon: The skies over the capital will be partly cloudy over the next five days. No rain is forecast, but there is a chance of rain on Wednesday. Maximums will exceed the 20° mark. **Faro:** After a cloudy start to the weekend, the weather will clear until Wednesday, when some rain is forecast. **The North:** Blue skies and warm weather will dominate for the next five days, before the arrival of scattered showers on Wednesday.

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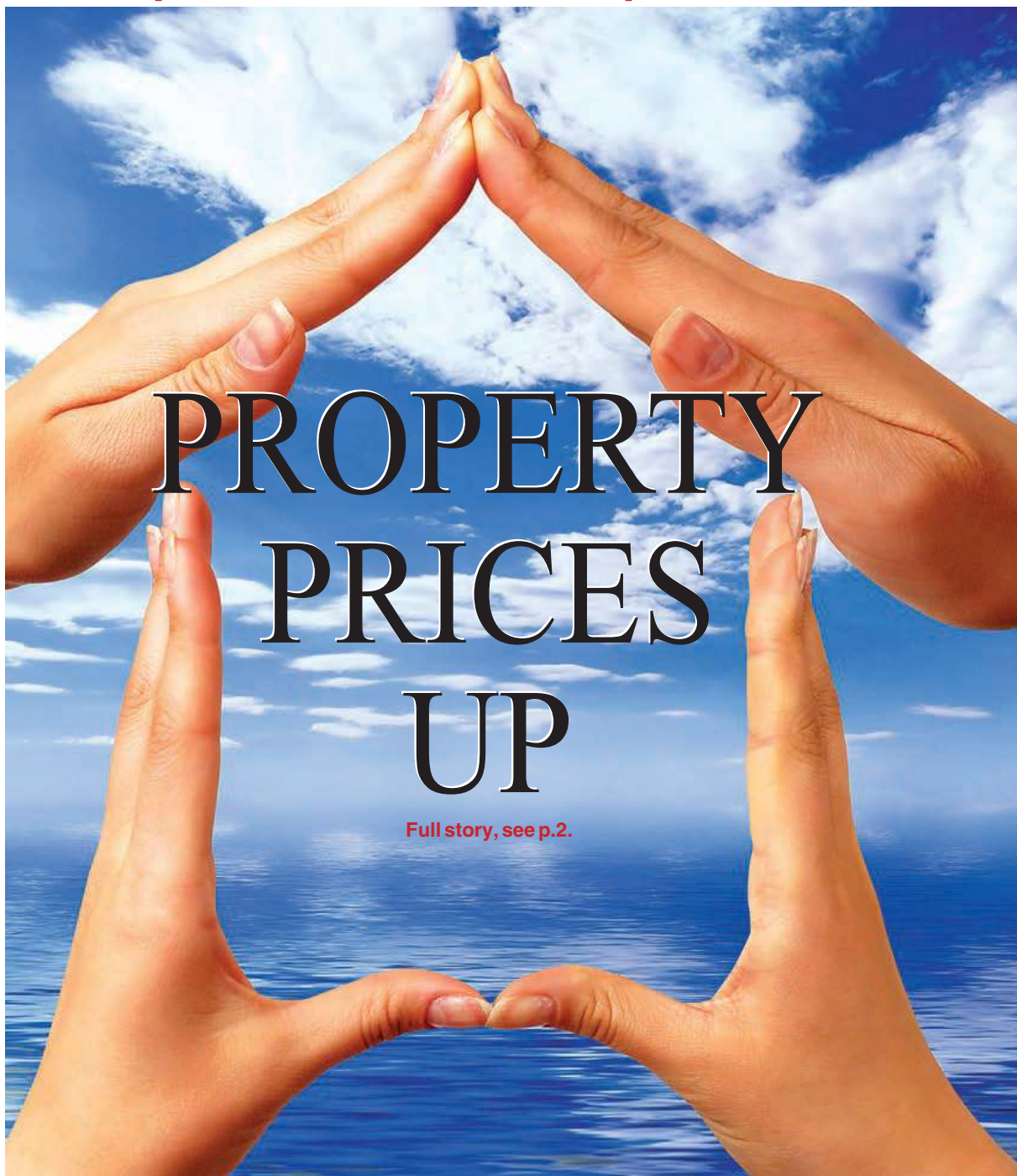
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Portugal bucks European trend to record house price increases, FT report finds



Full story, see p.2.

THE PORTUGAL
News



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British expats prepare to vote

News in the UK was this week dominated by Prime Minister Gordon Brown announcing that a General Election will be held on May 6.

Expatriates living in Portugal will also be able to cast their vote in what is expected to be one of the most contested general elections in decades.

With the votes of UK nationals living abroad set to count more than ever, The Portugal News this week decided to conduct a straw poll amongst the thousands of expatriate Britons registered on The Portugal News mailing list.

Replies received between Tuesday evening and Thursday morning indicate that 39.33 percent of respondents will not be exercising their civic right next month.

While polls in the UK have consistently shown in recent days that the Conservative Party can expect close to 40 percent of the vote, Labour around 30 percent and the Liberal Democrats will receive around 20 percent, respondents here gave a slightly different view.

There will be no hung parliament in Portugal if our readers were to vote today, The Portugal News straw poll found.

The Conservative Party will gain 47.33 percent of the vote, while the ruling Labour Party will only receive 8 percent. The Liberal Democrats are forced into fourth, having received only 4.67 percent of the 'vote', while UKIP received 5.33 percent. Those who would vote for a party other than the above four

represented only 2.67 percent of the total.

The main motivation behind 'casting' their vote was that readers felt there is a need for change (28.67 percent). The second biggest reason for voting was that respondents believed the party they elected could improve the present economic situation in the UK.

Other reasons given were 'The leader of the party' with 4.67 percent, 'that the party's MPs were the least involved in the expenses scandal' (two percent) while 'Other' received 14 percent.

British nationals living in Portugal have until 20 April to register as an 'overseas voter' to be eligible to vote in the UK general election.

Every British citizen who has

been registered to vote in the UK within the last 15 years is eligible to vote in the UK general election on 6 May 2010.

Those who were too young to register when they left the UK, can still register as an overseas voter so long as their parent or guardian was registered to vote in the UK and had left the UK within the last 15 years.

Expatriates who are in the UK on election day can always vote in person at a polling station.

UK nationals who live abroad can apply to vote by post or by proxy, although they must be registered as an overseas voter.

For more information, visit: <http://ukinportugal.fco.gov.uk/en/help-for-british-nationals/living-in-portugal/voting-overseas>



Members of the public try to photograph the British Prime Minister Gordon Brown as he leaves Buckingham Palace by car after meeting Queen Elizabeth II on 6 April. He asked the Queen to dissolve Parliament to make way for a General Election to be held on May 6th. (Photo: EPA/Geoff Caddick)

Property prices up



While most European house prices fell last year, the first decline since the Financial Times began tracking the market in 2000, Portugal managed to be one of the few countries to report a growth in house prices during the economic gloom of 2009.

The Financial Times (FT) this week said that house prices in the Euro Zone fell by 4.6 percent last year in relation to 2008, while the drop was less pronounced in 23 European nations, where a reduction of 2.8 percent was reported.

Spain, so often compared to Portugal in terms of house prices, witnessed a 7.4 percent loss of value on homes. Neighbour Portugal however, managed to buck the trend, and recorded house price increases of 0.4 percent in a year when the global recession wreaked havoc.

Ireland, Slovakia and Iceland were the hardest hit by the housing crisis, with prices falling by 12.4 percent, 11.1 percent and 9.7 percent respectively last year.

Market analysts in Portugal

have underwritten the findings published this week in the FT, saying the country has always assumed a cautious approach to real estate development, at least in comparison with countries such as Spain and Ireland, which has allowed it to emerge from the international housing crisis relatively unscathed.

"We never reached levels of high debt and our banks have always been more conservative. This is largely why the crisis has not been as profound in Portugal as elsewhere in Europe", Business Director of Aguirre Newman was quoted as telling *Diário Económico* this week.

The Director of Century 21 Portugal, Ricardo Sousa, meanwhile added that "Portugal has

been recording a growth tendency since June 2006", but in a stable manner, and not as drastically as in the United Kingdom or the United States.

According to Mr Sousa, the worst period for Portuguese real estate was at the start of 2009, but the market rapidly stabilised in the ensuing months.

"People are still buying, but nobody is buying their dream house. They are much more cautious and are opting for cheaper homes", he said.

However, Residential Market Director of CB Richard Ellis told *Diário Económico* that the Portuguese real estate market stability has another explanation: "This increase is probably due to more luxury homes being sold",

Luís Saldanha said.

According to the FT, the Eurozone and Europe indexes, house prices fell more than seven percent in the larger, more developed economies such as the UK, Spain and France.

The FT further found that "even Germany, traditionally a more stable market, saw a decline of more than 4 percent in the second-hand home market and an overall decline of 1.8 percent."

The biggest falls were in the countries hit hardest by the global financial crisis, the study found. However, quarterly data suggest the worst may be over for the UK, Spain, France and Germany, which registered marginal growth in the fourth quarter compared, with the third.

Car sales up 72 percent in March

After a gloomy 2009, the worst ever in the history of the Portuguese motor industry, new car sales have recorded an astonishing recovery in recent months.

Car sales figures have once again caught market analysts by surprise, as a growth of 71.6 percent was reported last month, bettering the 53 percent year-on-year increase for February.

During the month of March, a total of 27,976 cars left showroom floors, the Association for the Automobile Sector (ACAP) said this week.

Over the first three months of 2010, 64,474 cars were sold in the country. When compared with the first quarter of 2009, it translates into a rise of 56.2 percent a year later.

An indication of renewed consumer confidence is the 23,860 passenger vehicles that were sold in March, which is up 87 percent on the same month the year before.

ACAP explained in a statement that these figures should be greeted with reserved optimism, as March 2009 had been a "particularly bleak month" when cars sales plummeted 42 percent in relation to 2008.

The Association further said that this boost in sales is largely due to car hire companies renew-

ing their fleets, following a year when many opted to keep older vehicles out of fear of a slow summer.

In addition, companies also used March to trade in older vehicles and rejuvenate or increase existing fleets.

In the meantime, as car makers and industry analysts remain wary, there is no denying that Portuguese are once more buying new cars, which, in turn is expected to have positive effects on the country's economy currently gripped by the global economic crisis.

Despite these positive numbers, the Portuguese Automobile Association (ACAP) has assumed a guarded stance and has refrained from expressing excessive excitement.

The first half of 2009 is considered by the Association to have been the worst period on record for the industry, with sales plummeting by an average of around 40 percent on a monthly basis.

The brands responsible for this boost in new car sales so far this year are Renault, Peugeot and Volkswagen.



The CEO of AutoEuropa Andreas Hinrichs poses next to a Volkswagen Eos in January last year. The Eos is one of two vehicles being produced by his company in Palmela. (Photo: Lusa / João Relvas)

Unemployment affecting more than one fifth of Portugal's young adults

Unemployment amongst the under-25s in Portugal, in February, reached 21 percent when 12 months ago that figure was at 19.2 percent, according to data from the EU's statistics department, Eurostat.

This places Portugal above the European average of the 27 state-members, which is 20.6 percent. Eurostat's figures also indicate that the overall unemployment rate in Portugal in February remained unaltered, at 10.3 percent, in comparison to January this year, but, when compared with figures from February 2008, joblessness grew by 1.5 percent.

Women are more affected by unemployment than men, it transpires, with female unemploy-

ment having reached 10.9 percent. In February 2009 that figure was lower, at 9.7 percent.

Portugal has the EU's fifth highest amount of unemployed citizens, with 23,019 million people out of work.

Topping the list is Cyprus, where unemployment reached 21.7 percent, followed by Spain (19%), Slovakia (14.2%), Ireland (13.2%) and Hungary (11%).

However, in Austria, unemployment currently affects only five percent of the population, with Holland boasting the lowest rate of unemployment, at four percent. Amongst young people, Latvia has the highest rate of unemployment (41.3%) followed by Spain (40.7%).

Thousands of companies declared bankrupt

By the end of March more than one thousand companies in Portugal had been officially declared bankrupt; according to the Commercial Information Institute, since the beginning of this year 1,066 companies had applied for insolvency.

This represents an 8.55 percent rise in comparison to the same period of 2009, and in comparison to the first trimester of 2008, an augment of 52.25 percent.

The majority of cases are located in Oporto, Lisbon and Braga.

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Woman driver jailed after mowing down duo



Thirty seven year old Maria Paula Dias, accused of two crimes of homicide and assault, both caused by negligence, on her arrival at the Lisbon Criminal Court to hear her sentence on April 7th. (Photo: Lusa / Mário Cruz)

A female driver who in 2007 ran over and killed two women in Terreiro do Paço, Lisbon, has this week been sentenced by courts to three years in jail.

Lisbon's Criminal Courts decided, after considering the evidence, "there is no room for doubt over the facts" of which the woman is accused.

Thirty-seven-year-old Maria Paula Dias, who had no previous criminal record, was accused of murder by negligence, of a 20-year-old woman and a 57-year-old woman. She was further charged with causing harm to a third person, the 20-year-old victim's mother, who was left incapable of working.

Maria Paula Dias' lawyer has confirmed an appeal will be made.

Facebook frenzy @ The Portugal News

Having created the social networking Facebook fan page last month, **The Portugal News** has been a tremendous success, having attracted well over 1,000 fans so far.

With constant updates generating great interest from members of 'The Portugal News-Portugal's National Newspaper in English' Facebook fan page, it is the ideal venue for readers to interact, express their viewpoints and comment on current affairs in Portugal.

The interaction between the readers and **The Portugal News** can vary between light-hearted banter and serious is-

ssues that affect everyday lives.

With daily posts consistently being updated and discussed, this fan page is a fantastic interactive board and everybody is invited to join as your opinion is very important to **The Portugal News**.

To join the fan page, please visit www.theportugalnews.com and on the left hand side of the page is a link to our Facebook fan page.

Man held on suspicion of killing five month old son

A 23-year-old man is being held in PJ police custody on the suspicion of having murdered his five-month-old son in Alcobaça. He will remain in custody until the investigation into the incident has been completed.

The suspect is being held in the Leiria Regional Prison Establishment.

According to Leiria PJ's Department of Criminal Investigation, "all indicates that the child, a five-month-old male, died after suffering physical injuries to his head and torso". The father is also believed to have attacked the child one month earlier as, the report stated, there were "signs of previous aggression and neglect that were not treated in hospital".

The baby's mother was also questioned by police but not made a suspect.

The head of the Alcobaça *Bombeiros Voluntários*, Mário Serol, told Lusa News Agency that they had received a call to attend an incident involving "a baby pram or chair that had fallen over" in a house "100 metres from the headquarters".

"The child was unconscious and also showed signs of encephalitis; a traumatic head and brain injury".

Mário Serol explained that, at the time the firemen arrived, the child's situation "was already very complicated".

Three firemen were present at

the scene, "they carried out resuscitation procedures, at the house and throughout the kilometre-long route to the hospital", he added, concluding that as the hospital suspected it may have been a case of physical abuse, the decision was made to inform the PSP police.

Amoreiras access to 25 Abril Bridge to close

Next Monday night, April 12th, access to the 25 Abril Bridge from Amoreiras is to be cut from 22h00 that night until 08h00 the following morning (Tuesday, April 13th).

The Bridge is to be closed to traffic in the direction north-south to allow for the positioning of a crane being used in the Alcântara ETAR works.

"The closure is to allow for the assembly of a crane needed for the installation of the Alcântara ETAR", the company confirmed.

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Spring brings baby magic



Lagos zoo recently welcomed the addition of a rare grey African pelican. Last year, only three grey African pelican births were reported worldwide.

Over the past two weeks two highly anticipated births took place in the Algarve; the first, that of a rare grey African pelican, welcome to the world at Lagos' zoo, and the second, the birth of two Iberian Lynxes, also born in captivity at the Silves reproduction centre on Easter Sunday.

Last year only three of 50 zoos in the world that are home to the grey African pelicans, found mainly in Senegal, Ethiopia, Natal, Madagascar and Arabia, are not known for being born in captivity. In the wild these birds normally feed from dams, rivers and small lakes, consuming a daily dose of between 900 and 1,200 grams of fish. They can measure up to 132 centimetres in length and have an average life span of 12 years.

Regarding their reproductive habits, pelicans are monogamous during mating season and independent the rest of the year. Females generally lay two eggs which hatch after a 30-day incubation period.

bation period.

Inaugurated in November 2000, Lagos Zoo is now home to some 140 animal species and 200 botanic species from the five continents.

One the other hand, Silves' purpose-built Iberian Lynx Reproduction Centre is home to just one species, which is endangered; hence why last Sunday's new arrivals were welcomed to huge celebrations, being the first of their species to be born in captivity in Portugal.

Their arrival, following a natural birth, was officially announced by the Ministry for the Environment, which described the cubs as "robust and quite active". They are the first-borns of female Iberian Lynx Azahar, Arab for orange blossom, who was born in the wild five years ago and was the first animal to be transferred to the Silves Centre, having arrived from Spain last October.

Despite several attempts Azahar had never managed to successfully reproduce in the reproduction centre where she had been previously homed, in Jerez de la Frontera. It is believed the 'stress' of the Spanish centre's urban location prevented the lynx from falling pregnant.

The male, Drago, was born in captivity in La Olivilla and was also one of the 16 Iberian Lynxes brought to Silves from Spain in an attempt to boost the dwindling indigenous species, which is verging on extinction.

Born on Easter Sunday the two cubs were the first to be born in captivity, though Environmental Minister Dulce Alvaro Pássaro said "we hope these cubs and others in the future will be released back into the wild to repopulate our nature".

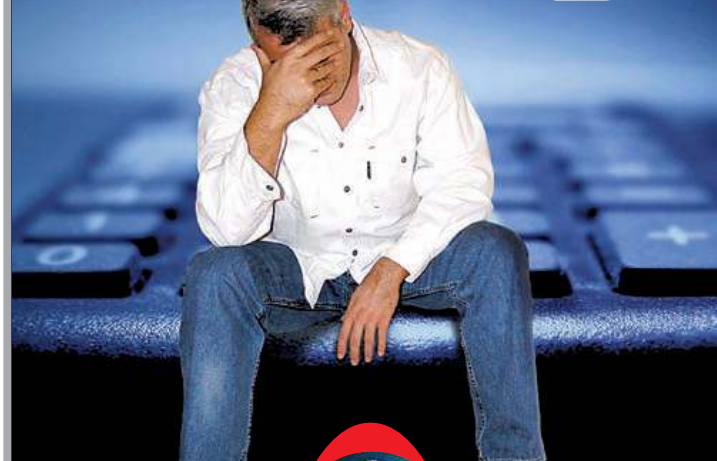
In Spain last year hopes of repopulating the Iberian Lynx species took a serious knock when it was announced that three animals being kept in captivity had died following a kidney infection. The Spanish entity responsible for the Iberian Lynx protection programme further confirmed that a third of the 72 animals being kept in captivity were believed to be suffering from the same disease.

At the time the director of the Silves Reproduction Centre, Rodrigo Serra, also said that one of the females in this country was suffering from a kidney disease but was not infectious and had probably been caused by "a toxic problem", during feeding or vaccinations.

At the beginning of the 20th Century, the Iberian Lynx population, which is indigenous to Portugal and Spain, comprised an estimated 100,000 animals, but is now considered to be one of the most endangered species in the world, with around just 200 animals remaining in the wild.

In Portugal, the last sighting of a lynx was reported in 1980.

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Carvoeiro traders unite in bid to reverse road revamp



Around 50 business-owners and residents have formed an association to protest against the renovation works completed last year in the village of Carvoeiro, Lagoa. Once one of the most popular and picturesque areas of the Algarve, locals claim both tourism and takings have suffered as a result of the road revamp.

Roadworks in the fishermen's village were completed last year, but opinions are divided as to whether they were beneficial for business. The village square, which once provided parking for an estimated 50 vehicles, has been fully pedestrianised.

Further parking on the village's entrance and exit roads, close to the centre, has also been eliminated. A series of metallic posts have been placed to prevent vehicles from pulling over outside designated areas. Locals argue that little space has been left for large tour buses to drop off or pick up tourists; at a glance the only bays close to the square are for loading and unloading commercial deliveries, along with a couple of pharmacy users.

Presided over by local businesswoman Graça Novo, the association, being referred to provisionally as the *Carvoeiro Business-owners' Association*, "was

formed because of the works carried out in Carvoeiro".

"It is a constant fight for parking", Graça told *The Portugal News*, adding "They have taken away all of the village's typicality".

"Business-owners are dissatisfied with tourism figures. Even the post office has suffered. People drive through the village, but as there are no parking spaces they leave. We want to bring life back to the village", she explained.

Local bar owner Geraldine Wilkinson also confirmed "Business has suffered".

"We are all about 50 percent down [on takings] and we can't blame it solely on the current economic climate".

Geraldine claims to have "cut down drastically on staff" as a result of the alleged downturn, and described how "people drive around once or twice then leave the village because there's no parking".



Carvoeiro's modernised village centre.

Further aggravation is being caused by lack of response to a petition comprising around 800 signatures from business owners and residents, submitted to Lagoa Town Hall nearly two weeks ago.

"We want Lagoa to hear our voices. Something must be done

urgently", Graça Novo urged.

In response to the claims, Lagoa Mayor José Inácio told *The Portugal News* "the situation is being technically analysed, as that is how things need to be done".

He acknowledged he knew of the existence of the petition.

"Something people can't have is everything. First it is space for esplanades then parking", he retorted, stressing further, "People have been used to making good money, but families cannot afford to spend anymore and there is no point in deluding ourselves that

things will go back to how they were".

Mayor Inácio wrapped up his response by concluding "The Algarve has suffered a severe crisis" but, in his opinion, regarding Lagoa, "last summer was very good".

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Munich consul suspended in alleged shady submarine deal



CDS / PP delegate Paulo Portas during a press conference on the submarine case in Parliament on March 31st. (Photo: Lusa / Mário Cruz)



The Portuguese government suspended an honorary consul in Germany late last week after published reports implicated the German national in a kickback scheme involving Lisbon's ordering construction of two submarines in 2004.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that it was suspending Jurgen Adolff, the Portuguese consul in Munich for the past 15 years, until "full clarification of the investigations that involve him personally".

German magazine Der Spiegel reported last Tuesday that Adolff was suspected of having received €1.6 million in kickback payments from Man Ferrostaal, one of three firms in the German Submarine Consortium, which won the contract to build the two submarines for the Portuguese Navy in 2004.

The magazine said Adolff had been instrumental in setting up a meeting between the then Portuguese Prime Minister José Manuel Durão Barroso, now chairman of the European Commission, and Ferrostaal's administration.

German authorities, it added, had found "dozens of suspect consultancy documents" intended to be passed on to the Por-

tuguese Navy Ministry in a search of the firms offices last week.

A spokeswoman for Durão Barroso told the Lusa News Agency in Brussels that he had had "no direct or personal intervention" in the decision to purchase the two U-214 submarines apart from participating in the "collective" cabinet decision.

Durão Barroso met Adolff in Munich but had never discussed the submarine purchase with the consul.

The Defence Minister at the time, Paulo Portas, head of Portugal's rightist Popular Party, said the choice of the German submarines had followed "absolutely unequivocal" price and technical criteria, among others.

He said he had never been questioned by Portuguese authorities on the subject.

The suspended consul, contacted by Lusa from Lisbon, said he knew "nothing" about the suspension or investigation.

TPN/Lusa

EC wants stronger sanctions against child sex criminals

The European Commission has proposed new rules obliging EU countries to impose more severe punishment on those who sexually abuse children.

The proposal, unveiled last week, also calls for criminal prosecution of activities like 'grooming' (befriending children with the intention of sexually abusing them) and 'sex tourism', even if the child abuse has taken place outside the EU.

The Commission also wants more to be done to prevent these offences and to protect the victims. It particularly wants to make sure that offenders can get tailor-made treatment so that they don't abuse again.

Downloading or viewing child pornography on the internet leads to more children being raped to produce those images" said Home Affairs Commissioner Cecilia Malmström.

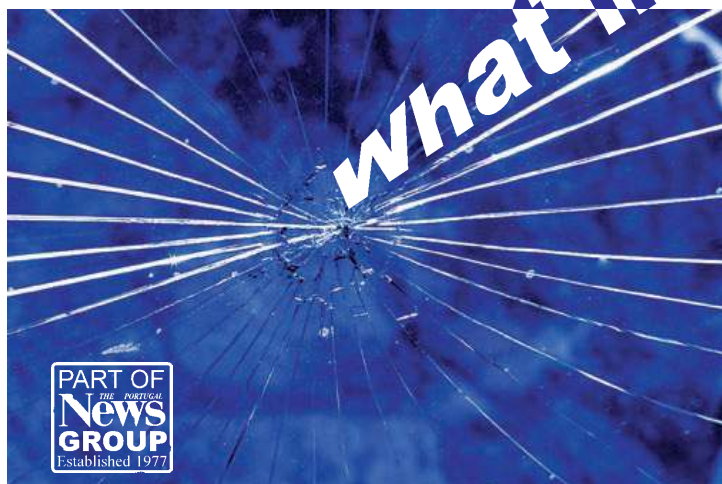
"The response of the EU cannot be too clear or too resolute. Whatever the EU can possibly do against this, the EU must do and will do", she said.

Studies suggest that between 10 percent and 20 percent of children in Europe will suffer one or other form of sexual abuse dur-

ing their childhood.

Some forms of sexual violence are still on the rise. The number of websites devoted to child pornography is growing. 200 images containing child pornography are put into circulation every day.

Child victims portrayed in pornography are getting younger, and the images are becoming more graphic and more violent. Some 20 percent of sex offenders go on to commit new offences after conviction.



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Foreign prisoners double in a decade



From 1999 the number of Portuguese inmates in national jails fell as the number of foreign prisoners, incarcerated mostly for serious crimes like murders, rapes and drug trafficking, increased.

In just one decade the number of foreigners imprisoned in Portuguese jails went from 10 to 20 percent of national total. On the other hand, Portuguese inmates have steadily decreased, particularly regarding the female population, which today is three times smaller than it was 10 years ago. In 1999 there were 1,118 female Portuguese women being held in national jails, today there are no more than 400 women.

In Portugal's 49 male and female jails as well as support installations, there were, last year, significantly fewer national inmates and double the amount of foreign citizens doing time or being held in custody than there were in 1999.

According to figures from the General Prison Services Board

(DGSP), which were not included in the Annual Internal Security Report (RASI), in 2009 national prison facilities housed 11,099 inmates, 8,836 of whom were Portuguese and 2,263 were foreigners.

Ten years ago, national jails held 11,421 Portuguese convicts and just 1,387 inmates of foreign nationalities.

This indicates that the number of foreign criminals went from making up 10.8 percent to 20.4 percent of Portugal's prisoners, in 10 years.

The majority of foreign prisoners are, according to statistics, Cape Verdeans, followed by Angolans, Brazilians, Guineans, Spanish and Romanians, in that order.

In 1999 there were fewer Ro-

manians in Portuguese prisons than any other nationality.

While the majority of Portuguese criminals are incarcerated for crimes including theft and robbery, foreigners are mostly sentenced to jail for more serious crimes, like drug trafficking, muggings, murders and rape.

According to data from the DGSP, from 1999 and 2009, Portuguese prisoners are generally older, a greater number of whom are aged over 50, are serving shorter sentences than their foreign counterparts, and have poorer schooling and qualifications. Many cannot read or write.

Foreign prisoners have a tendency to be younger; their sentences vary widely, and have higher levels of education.



The three Romanians who were accused of the murder of Briton John Turner at the Loulé courthouse where they were sentenced to 22 years in prison in October 2006. (Photo: Lusa / Luis Forra)

Portuguese most concerned about drug trafficking

Drug trafficking is the crime that most worries Portuguese citizens, according to a national study released this week, despite the majority of nationals having been the victims of other crimes such as defamation and injury to their person.

Carried out by a researcher of

the Superior Institute for Work and Company Sciences (ISCCTE), Paulo Pereira de Almeida, the national study revealed that the majority of Portuguese are more concerned about drug trafficking than any other type of crime committed.

On a 'concern scale' of one to

four, drug trafficking scored 3.65, followed by vehicle theft (3.55), and commercial property theft and robberies (3.54).

The study also indicates that 53.1 percent of those questioned have been the victim of defamation or injury to their person. But the Annual Internal Security Report

(RASI) further indicates that just 9.2 percent of the Portuguese who participated in the survey actually reported this type of crime.

Regarding serious and violent crime, 46.8 percent of the people involved in the survey claimed to

have been the victims of extortion, but only 19 percent reported it to the police.

The majority of participants had, in the six months prior to the investigation, had their wallet or mobile stolen, or their commer-

cial establishment robbed.

The study 'Victimisation in Portugal' was carried out in 308 Portuguese municipalities and involved the interviewing of 8,729 people, between November 2008 and June 2009.

Almost half of Portugal's youth have committed crimes

Almost half of all youngsters from the metropolitan areas of Lisbon and Oporto have committed some form of delinquent act, according to a study presented in Lisbon last week.

Launched in May 2008 by the Institute of Criminology from Oporto's University, the study was based on answers from 3,000 enquiries carried out in secondary schools and amongst 18-year-old non-pupils, regarding the activities of young adults outside of school, to analyse juvenile delinquency.

The document stated that 47.7 percent of those surveyed admitted to carrying out delinquent acts, of which 33.6 percent were committed in the past 12 months.

It was further concluded that there is a balance between property crimes (theft, damage, and robbery) and crimes against physical integrity (group fighting and aggression with or without weapons). In the study, the percentage of youths admitting to committing acts of juvenile delinquency increased with age, and occurred with greater fre-

quency amongst the 14-15 age groups.

"It is from the age of 16 that the highest percentage of delinquent acts is registered" the study states.

In terms of behaviour, one fourth of the youths – the majority of whom were boys – admitted to "causing disturbances" or "bothering or scaring people".

The consumption of alcohol was also analysed by the report, which concluded that six in every ten of the teens involved in the survey admitted to drinking alcohol.

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Action Plan to promote Portuguese internationally drafted in Brazil

Lusophone bloc foreign ministers have agreed to present an "Action Plan" for the promotion of the Portuguese language in international forums, especially within the United Nations system, to the bloc's summit in July.



Foreign Minister Luis Amado (right) at the July summit of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) in Luanda on April 1st. (Photo: Lusa)

The plan, drafted at a meeting in Brasília, calls for the introduction of Portuguese as a "language of documentation" within the UN network, namely at the General Assembly and the Security Council, and the creation of a corps of translators.

Other recommendations to be presented to the July summit of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) in Luanda include the phased introduction of the use of the language in UN agency web portals, such as those relating to human rights and social and health issues.

Another focus is the setting up

of permanent coordination mechanisms among the eight CPLP member states to contract translation services for high-level events sponsored by the UN, UNESCO, the International Labour Organisation and other international bodies.

The CPLP Council of Ministers also agreed to Lisbon's offer to host the second International Conference on the Future of the Portuguese Language in the World System in 2012, following the maiden, week-long event which concluded in Brasília last Wednesday.

TPN/Lusa

Portugal favours Eq. Guinea's CPLP membership

Portugal views proposals to give Equatorial Guinea full membership of the CPLP Lusophone bloc as positive, Foreign Minister Luis Amado has said.

Lisbon's top diplomat said the issue of Equatorial Guinea's admission to the CPLP (Community of Portuguese Language

Countries) will be discussed at the bloc's leaders' summit later this year in Luanda.

Minister Amado also addressed the West African petro-state's current instability, seen by some Lusophone analysts as a hurdle to full membership of the eight-state organisation.

"The decision will have to be made by consensus. There are various readings of the situation in Equatorial Guinea by member states (...). We'll find out if there's agreement for this step at the Luanda summit."

Equatorial Guinea presently holds observer status at the CPLP along with Mauritius, with close ties to Mozambique, and Senegal, traditionally having strong relations with Guinea-Bissau.

CPLP chief Domingos Pereira said last week at a Lusophone language conference in the Brazilian capital that Equatorial Guinea's bid for membership of the organization will be on the agenda of the bloc's July summit. Pereira said the CPLP has been considering full bloc membership for the former Spanish colony since 2006. TPN/Lusa

EC updates list of airlines banned from the European airspace

The European Commission has this week adopted the thirteenth update of the Community's list of airlines banned in the European Union to include all air carriers of two additional countries: Sudan and the Philippines, on the basis of safety assessments by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

With this update, restrictions placed on Air Koryo from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and TAAG from the former Portuguese colony of Angola are partially lifted under certain conditions, while the operations of Iran Air will be restricted. Regarding the spe-

cific case of Angola, the Commission said in a statement it recognises the improvements in the operations of TAAG Angola Airlines by allowing the air carrier to operate under certain strict conditions with specific aircraft to all destinations in the EU, not only to Lisbon.

Lisbon to make more effort to meet overseas aid commitments from 2011

Portugal will have to boost its foreign aid spending from next year to make up for its failure to meet commitments for 2010 due to budgetary constraints, says Lisbon's No 2 diplomat, João Gomes Cravinho.

In budget terms this year has been an "anomaly" because Portugal's fiscal blueprint for 2010 has only just been approved, but Lisbon's "international commitments have not simply vanished in terms of a different national situation than we

expected," Cravinho told Lusa News Agency last week at the United Nations on the margins of a high-level meeting on development aid finance.

A recent OECD study places Portugal among a number of EU states that is failing to meet its obligations to provide more

than 0.51 percent of its GDP in overseas aid.

Cravinho said Portugal, facing a ballooning budget shortfall and rising national debt, is making all efforts to comply with this GDP/aid ratio by 2015.

TPN/Lusa

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Briton arrested in the Algarve on Australian child sex abuse warrant

A 71-year-old British man wanted by Australia and New Zealand on charges of child sex abuse has been arrested in Portugal's southern Algarve region, police said late last week. They said the man was detained on an international arrest warrant issued by Australia and that authorities awaited documentation from Canberra to begin extradition proceedings.

PM unveils 'economic diplomacy' initiatives

Prime Minister José Sócrates has said he will lead Portuguese business missions to France, Brazil, Morocco and Angola by the end of July. The Socialist Government's continuing offensive on the "economic diplomacy" front, Sócrates told parliament, would also include missions led by Foreign Minister Luís Amado and Economy Minister José Vieira da Silva to Russia, China, South Korea and the United Arab Emirates. "These initiatives will be prepared previously with companies in order to assure the broadening of business opportunities", the Prime Minister said.

Bank's owner to "fight" insolvency

Privado Holding (PH), owner of Portuguese investment bank BPP, says it will "fight" any process to place the financial institution into insolvency. A PH source told the Lusa News Agency all means and arguments possible would be used to save BPP, which reported €800 million losses late 2008 to start a long campaign by its 3,000 customers to get back around €2 billion in assets. The Bank of Portugal has notified BPP that its licence could be revoked, normally the first step to putting a bank into insolvency.

Cavaco Silva preps Prague trip

Portuguese President Cavaco Silva will pay a state visit to the Czech Republic on April 14-16, Belém Palace said. During the visit, Cavaco Silva and his Czech counterpart, Václav Klaus, will participate in a bilateral business seminar.

Portugal to tighten ties with S. Korea

Portugal and South Korea will strengthen their political, cultural and economic relations, particularly in the area of renewable energy, says Foreign Minister Luís Amado. Minister Amado, making the first visit by a Portuguese foreign minister since the two states established diplomatic relations in 1961, told Lusa after talks with senior Seoul officials Monday that South Korea wants closer ties with Portugal in wide-ranging areas. Portugal's exports to South Korea have almost doubled in the last decade but fell by around 18 percent last year due to the global financial crisis to a value of €38 million. "We want to intensify our economic relations and one area with major potential, in which we have invested a lot in recent years, is renewables, said Lisbon's top diplomat. Amado was in Seoul on the first leg of a five-state tour of East Asia that includes China and Mongolia. He returns to Lisbon next weekend.

GNR police detachment in Timor rotates

Some 140 officers from Portugal's GNR paramilitary police force departed for East Timor on Monday on a six-month deployment to the United Nations security mission in the Asia-Pacific state, officials said.

Health Board to conduct Swine Flu phone survey

Throughout this month Portugal's National Health Board (DGS) will be carrying out a nation-wide phone survey of around 5,000 homes in order to obtain a more detailed and 'real' estimate of how many people were affected by the A H1N1 'Swine' flu.

DGS emergency services coordinator Mário Carreira said "We only know about the tip of the iceberg, because we could only measure using figures relating to those who used public health services".

Therefore, a phone enquiry will be carried out to assess what portion of the population was affected besides those who went to their local health centres or hospitals.

"There were people who either didn't use health centres or used private services. It is this estimate we want to achieve", Mr. Carreira explained.

The 5,000 enquiries will be carried out as a "representative sample" of the population on mainland Portugal and will be done over a 15-day period, starting April 12th, to both landline and mobile phone numbers. After this, a study will be put together and the findings made public sometime before mid-May.



The new Gripe A treatment centre in Hospital Dona Estefânia come into service on 12 October 2009, in Lisbon. (Photo: Lusa / José Sena Goulão)

Contraband tobacco under GNR's scope

The GNR seized around 14million contraband cigarettes in Portugal in 2009, 27 times more than in 2008, according to data revealed by the GNR.

The GNR's special unit seized a total of 13,869,520 illegal cigarettes throughout Portugal in 2009, the equivalent of 693,000 packs, worth around €2.4million.

The figures are alarmingly higher than those registered in 2008, the year when 505,100 cigarettes were seized, worth around €82,000.

The number of cases of criminal offences also rose substan-

tially, from 12 in 2008 to 26 last year, as well as minor offences, from 60 to 275. Being caught with less than €15,000 of contraband tobacco is considered a minor offence, with anything superior to this value being considered a serious crime, stated Major António Marques, from the GNR.

This year alone, the GNR have seized around one million cigarettes already, an average of 1,100 per day. According to

António Marques, the rising level of seized contraband tobacco is due to its change in status in Portugal: "Portugal used to be a transitory country, the tobacco travelled via Portugal to other countries in the EU, but now it is also for national consumption" said the GNR major, adding that tobacco originating from China is the most commonly confiscated, although tobacco from Malaysia, Paraguay and

Bulgaria is also coming into the country.

Tobacco arriving in Portugal arrives both seaborne in containers and by land, having been offloaded in other EU countries. All the seized tobacco is destroyed in order for it not to re-enter the market. Amongst the GNR's biggest operations last year, the 'Rastro' operation stood out with 9.5 million cigarettes seized in 38 searches.

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Portugal's petrol fifth most expensive in EU



During the last three months of 2009 Portugal had the fifth most expensive petrol of all 27 EU state-members, thanks to the price of its unleaded 95, according to a report from the fuel market's Authority of Competition (AdC).

The "significant" disparity amongst prices of public resale placed Portugal amongst the top-5 most expensive countries regarding unleaded 95 fuel. The most expensive country was Holland, where a litre of unleaded 95 petrol cost €1.388, the cheapest costing €0.899, in Romania.

"On average, during the last trimester of 2009, the price of

sale to the public of unleaded 95 petrol was superior to the EU27 average", the report stated, referring that the average price in Portugal was €1.280 whereas the average price throughout the EU27 was of €1.206.

The year of 2009 was characterized by a continuous rise in fuel prices during the first six months of the year and by stabil-

ity in prices throughout the rest of the year. Comparing the last quarter of last year with trimester before that, from July to September 2009, the price of unleaded 95 fell by eight cents per litre. In comparison to the last trimester of 2008, the price had risen by 4.5 cents per litre.

Regarding diesel, the report stated that prices from the last

quarter of 2009 had fallen by 8.8 cents per litre, in comparison to the same period of 2008, but registered an increase of 1.3 cents per litre in comparison to the third trimester of 2009.

In Portugal it was found that supermarkets offered the lowest prices of fuel retail, while other outlets tended to stick to prices closer to those of refineries.



A road sign on the A1 in Leiria in May 2009, showing prices of fuel at upcoming gas stations. (Photo: Lusa / Paulo Cunha)

IRS 2009 - ODDS & ENDS

nº 3 - Life's SPECIAL (and not so Special) SITUATIONS

In addition to routine reporting of income and expenses, certain events may affect all of us at some time or another. Let's take a brief look at Life's Special (and not so special) Situations and the tax implications that may exist.

a) BIRTH AND ADOPTION

What impact does the birth or adoption of a child have on my tax situation?

In the year of birth or adoption, you are permitted a tax credit equal to 40% of the National Minimum Wage. (€6,300 in 2009).

What should I do first?

Parents should report the additional dependent to their employer so that adjustments can be made in withholdings from salary.

Are there any other tax breaks?

Yes. Medical expenses related to the birth are entitled to a 30% tax credit.

b) FIRST JOB

I am about to begin my first salaried job in Portugal. What do I need to do?

You must provide your employer with the following information:

- marital status
- number of dependents
- your spouse's earnings

With this information, your withholdings will be done correctly and you shouldn't have any nasty surprises at tax time.

I am starting my own business. Is there anything I need to do to get started?

Yes. Before you are permitted to start your independent business activity in Portugal, you must register your business.

- This is done through the completion of a form called "Início de Actividade" at your local Finanças office via their computer system. You will also need to purchase an official Receipt Book ("Recibos Verdes").
- Periodic declarations of "IVA", or Value Added Tax, are also required. If you gross less than € 9 975.96 annually, you are exempted from IVA reporting. Otherwise, you must declare on a quarterly (or monthly) basis.
- You will also need to register at the local Social Security office. However, this is only required in the first month of the second year of your activity.

c) UNEMPLOYMENT

What are the tax consequences of losing my job?

Obviously, the first consequence is the loss of salary income and no further withholding at source. No income, no tax.

If you receive unemployment compensation, this subsidy is not

taxed.

If you are still unemployed at the end of the fiscal year, you will need to report your earnings up to when you lost your job. However, you may still take full tax deductions and credits for the entire year.

d) MARRIAGE

I got married last year. What impact does this have on my tax situation?

Soon following the ceremony, you and your spouse need to report the change to your respective employers, to bring withholding up-to-date with the new situation.

Your IRS tax return will now be joint. However, on this single return, you will each report your earnings separately. Expenses are normally reported together. You will benefit from the "marital coefficient" which should reduce your rate of tax.

I have been living with my boyfriend now for the last 4 years. Must we continue to file separate returns?

No. Couples co-habiting together for over two year may file a joint return if registered at the same address. This applies to homosexual couples as well as heterosexuals. You will most likely benefit from the "marital coefficient" in reducing your rate of tax.

e) SEPARATION AND DIVORCE

What tax changes occur in the year of divorce or separation?

The divorce/separation should be reported to your respective employers to alter tax deductions at source.

Remember, it is your status on 31 December that determines your situation for the tax year. You should each file separate returns for both income and expenses. You should each report your individual share of any joint income.

f) DEATH

Upon the death of a spouse, what are the tax implications?

The death of a spouse must be reported in the tax return. The survivor submits a tax return, ticking the widow/widower box for marital status and reports the fiscal number of the deceased. Both incomes as well as deductions and credits need to be reported on the appropriate annexes.

In some instances, the estate may generate income prior to final resolution that will need to be reported as well. If there are complications or delays in the settlement of the estate, it is highly advisable to seek professional advice.

As of 1 January 2004, Gift and Inheritance Tax ("Sucessória") was abolished. Gratuitous transfers between immediate family members (spouses, children, grandchildren, parents and grandparents) are tax exempt. All others are assessed a flat 10% stamp duty on the transfer.

Dennis Swing Greene

Dennis Swing Greene is Chairman of the Board and International Fiscal Consultant for **euroFINESCO s.a.** Private consultations can be scheduled at in Guia (Albufeira) 289561333, Lisbon (Chiado) 21342421 and in Funchal (Sé), Madeira 291221095, by e-mail at info@eurofinesco.com or on the internet at www.eurofinesco.com.

More cash card spending this Easter

Portuguese used their bank cards to withdraw and make card payments that amounted to 622 million euros over the Easter weekend, according to figures revealed this week.

The 'Multibanco' network in Portugal reported more than 12 million withdrawals and card payments over the long weekend in relation to the same period last year, when the total number of transactions represented a monetary value of 528 million euros. When compared with 2008, the year-on-year cash value increase was 94 million euros.



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Dow's Vintage rated top notch by leading US wine magazine



Port wine Dow's Vintage 2007 has been awarded the top rating by prestigious American magazine the Wine Spectator in their latest edition.

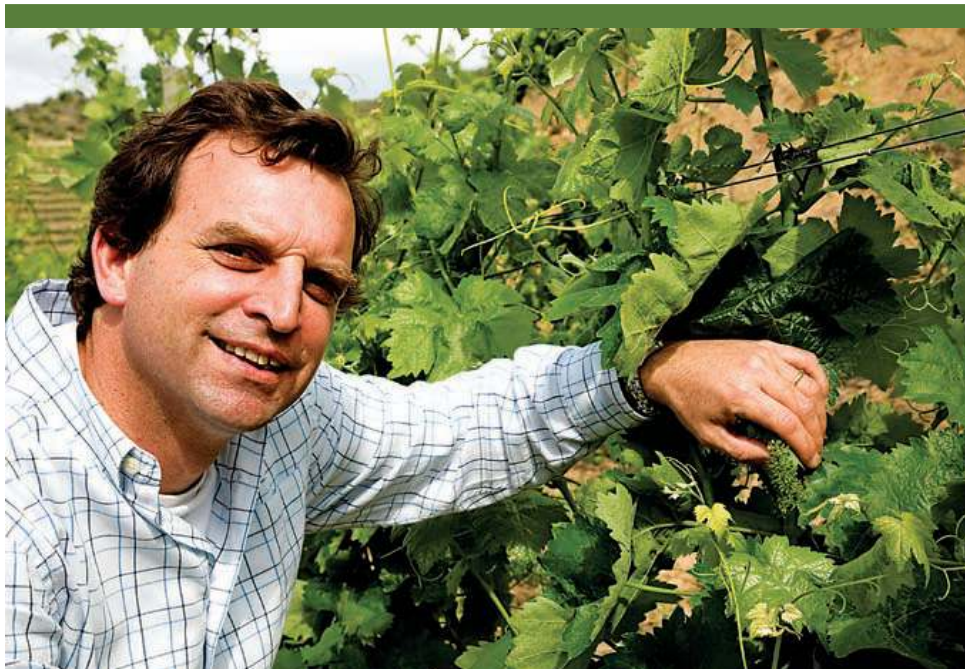
Charles Symington, who blended the winning port in collaboration with brother Peter, told the Lusa News Agency: "A person is speechless when 100 points are achieved."

"This really has very special significance. It's maybe the most important moment since I began my career," added Symington's

head enologist.

Wine Spectator's Europe editor James Suckling said the top-rated wine had an "impressive bouquet of lilac, violet and crushed blueberries which matured to black pepper and spices in a full-bodied half dry wine with a very long final note."

TPN/Lusa



Charles Symington, one of the family members directly involved in the production of wines in the Douro pictured in one of the company's vineyards in May last year. (Photo: Lusa / Pedro Rosário)

Good news for February air travel

In February Portuguese airports registered a growth of 9.7 percent in passenger traffic, in comparison to the same month of the previous year, according to results from national airport management company ANA – Airports of Portugal.

The figures indicate that, accumulatively, over the first two months of 2010 passenger traffic at Portuguese airports grew by 7.2 percent in comparison to January and February 2009.

In February this year the number of travellers passing through all national airports (Lisbon, Oporto, Faro and the Azores) grew, with the biggest single increase being registered at Oporto's Francisco Sá Carneiro Airport (17.6 percent).

In terms of individual growth Oporto was followed by Lisbon (8.9 percent), Faro

(3.2 percent) and the Azores (2.6 percent).

In total, 1.42 million passengers were processed in ANA-managed airports in February this year, up significantly on the 1.29 million passengers registered in February last year.

"This result confirms the efforts carried out by national airports", the company said, quoting data from air travel consultants Air4casts, which indicated "A worldwide growth in passenger traffic of 6.3 percent in the month of February".

Bosses less qualified than employees



On average, Portugal's employers have poorer school qualifications than employees, with only nine percent of business owners or professional superiors having a degree.

This figure is less than half of the average amount of employees with a degree, according to data from the National Statistics Institute (INE).

Portuguese employers' qualifications are substantially inferior to those of the nation's employees, as well as being inferior to the educational achievements of their Spanish counterparts or other employers belonging to any of the 27 EU state-members.

According to data from 2008, national employers – superiors or business owners – have fewer qualifications than the people they employ in all of the categories covered by the Portuguese and Spanish INEs.

This was published in a report – The Iberian Peninsula in Numbers, 2009 – last weekend.

Regarding employees, 65 percent have primary or basic school qualifications, 16 percent had completed secondary school qualifications, and 18 percent had a university degree.

In comparison, respectively, 81 percent of employers have primary or basic school qualifications, though only 10 percent had completed secondary school qualifications, and nine percent had a University degree, less than half in comparison to the people

they employ.

However, the school qualifications of Portuguese workers are substantially inferior to their

Spanish counterparts, where 37 percent of workers have a university degree, higher than the EU average of 29 percent.

Transport minister visits Spain for airport, rail talks

Minister for Transport, Public Works and Communications António Mendonça visited Madrid this week for talks on airports and railway cooperation, officials said.

The Lisbon minister visited Terminal 4 of Madrid's Barajas Airport before meeting Spanish opposite José Blanco on the first day of his 48-hour visit to the neighbouring Iberian state which commenced on Tuesday.

On Wednesday he met the head of Spanish state rail operator RENFE and travelled to the northern city of Zaragoza on an AVE high-speed train.

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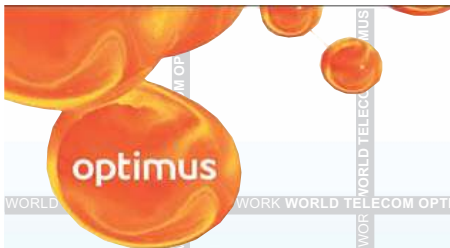
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Rossio gets rid of sticky issue



Lisbon Council is beginning an experimental project this month, hoping to get rid of chewing gum in the Rossio area using high-tech equipment, the same used in several other European cities.

A specialised company has been given the task of removing chewing gum on Lisbon's pavements over the next six months, giving priority to prime areas of Lisbon, in areas with several retail and restaurant establishments, and close to schools and public services.

The company cleaning the streets with high-tech equipment, which uses a high temperature and low pressure dry vapour system, providing first class standards of cleaning, reduced manual labour and chemical products, eliminating chewing gum

completely from the pavements. These innovative machines leave no trace of chewing gum on the pavements in an efficient and effective manner, leaving only a small damp patch on the pavement.

"Chewing gum has become one of the fastest growing environmental problems of the last decade. Retail parks, schools, colleges, shopping centres and public spaces that have cost millions to develop have been spoilt, covered with trodden-in blobs of discarded gum" states the company Gum Clear on its internet page.



A picture of Rossio Square, in Lisbon, where a specialised company will be removing all the chewing gum off the pavements. (Photo: António Cotrim/LUSA)

Accentuated drop in new houses built

Construction of new houses in Lisbon in 2009 dropped a breathtaking 75%, with Oporto also suffering a 55% drop compared to 2008.

Investments in real estate suffered a big drop in Lisbon in 2009 as only 208 new projects were licensed for construction, far less than the 845 authorized in 2008. However, this diminishment of new projects gave way to renovations, which picked up slightly in 2009.

Approved projects for renovation of buildings,

which consist of small renovations and not complete overhauls, grew 7% in the whole council, from 335 projects in 2008 to 360 last year.

Lisbon's figures are very similar to those in the rest of the country, with new housing suffering massive drops, whilst renovations slightly increased.

Iconic tree topples in Sintra

A 140 year old eucalyptus tree, planted by D. Fernando II and Countess d'Edla on their wedding day at Parque da Pena, in Sintra, has collapsed due to the recent bad weather.

The massive eucalyptus tree was planted in the vicinity of the Countess' Chalet, on July 10th 1869, in order to celebrate the wedding of D. Fernando II and Elise Hensler.

With the constant heavy rain these past months, the soil in which the tree was planted became sodden and could not support the immense weight of the tree, which collapsed on February 26th.

"It was a great loss because it was a very iconic eucalyptus" said Nuno Oliveira, who works for Monte da Lua Parques de

Sintra, adding that the tree collapsed because of the heavy rain and also due to its proximity to a stream. "Nobody could have predicted the eucalyptus would fall. It was an established tree but when it rains abundantly the soil becomes saturated, and as the trees in Serra de Sintra develop very superficial roots, due to the presence of a lot of water, this contributed to the collapse" said the employee.

D. Fernando II was married to D. Maria II when he purchased an old convent at the top of Serra de Sintra, which was later trans-

formed into Palácio da Pena.

In 1869, D. Fernando II married for the second time to Elise Hensler, a poetic singer who was made Countess months before the wedding, and together they planted the eucalyptus to celebrate their matrimony.



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Tires aerodrome slashes deficit



ArCascais, the managing company for Tires Aerodrome, in Cascais, reduced its deficit by over one million euros during the past four years, and is currently at €300,000, according to the chairman of the company.

"In the last four years we have made a strong recovery, and have been able to diminish the company's deficit to only €300,000" said Paulo Andrade, Chairman of ArCascais.

In 2006, ArCascais reported a deficit of €1.5million, and, according to Paulo Andrade, the secret of the successful reduction of €1.2million was due to initiatives taken by the municipal company's administration "We managed to double the profits and that was done by controlling the costs in areas we gave no importance to before-

hand, such as making our equipment and space profitable, like the hangars" he said, adding that giving the workers an entrepreneurial perspective of the company also increased traffic by 50% to the aerodrome.

Over thirty companies are currently operational at Cascais Municipal Aerodrome, employing around 700 workers and providing tuition to one thousand students, who are preparing for their pilot's licence or receiving cabin crew training for Portuguese airlines.

Motherhood

I don't know what Portugal does for unwed, indigent mothers, but I can tell you that my God daughter is lucky to be living in France. Susanna, 18, left this country in September, two months pregnant and poor. She took the advice of the SOS Village in Bicesse where she was raised from age 3, to go live near her father in France. Initially she was afraid: "What if he rejects me?" she said between her tears and fears. But after several phone calls, she got the "go" signal and left on a bus for Paris. Soon she found housing with 40 other unwed and mothers-to-be in Versailles. She lives near her Portuguese father who left this country two years ago to work on the roads outside of Paris. Susanna spends the weekends with him and his street-smart wife, whom she calls Tia and who was clever enough to get Susanna onto the French "system." The French government gives Susanna over €1,000 a month, a place to live until the baby is three, and will provide

nursery care for the baby while Susanna learns French and goes to work after her three month's post-partum reprieve. I flew to Paris last week to see her and the baby and also to convince her to stay there.

The day after I arrived in Paris, I took a train from Montparnasse Station in Paris and headed for a small village 30 minutes outside of the capital. I reached the station and looked around in disbelief as I stepped onto the platform. Gone was the glamour, the glitz, the posh of Paris. Instead I saw a rural village, a mixed racial neighbourhood with one Portuguese store that catered to the Cabo Verdian and Portuguese residents who live there. I stood in front of the station for one forlorn moment wondering what would happen next. Then, from around the corner, I saw Susanna and her cousin running towards me. Susanna opened her arms and we hugged like family who had been separated (but not forgotten) for a long time.

Where's baby Clarissa?" I

asked. "She's with my Tia," Susanna said as we walked 20 minutes in cold, windy weather. Tia's home consists of one room with a table and six chairs, a stove and sink, with a small bathroom in the corner. In the back are two beds, one with a blue and red curtain around it, and the other a double-sized mattress on the floor. Tiny Clarissa lay sleeping soundly, wrapped in a red blanket on the curtained bed where Tia and Susanna's father sleep. (He was working the day I visited but called to say hello.) The other bed was for Susanna and her 14-year old cousin. The rest of the morning we talked as the infant slept. Then we ate the tasty dourada carefully cooked by Tia in her small enamel stove. Paris might have the Michelin stars but the warmth around that simple wooden table surpassed any of the glamour in upscale Parisian restaurants. Finally Clarissa cried.

"She's hungry," said Tia, who has already had five children of her own. We heated her bottle



Westheimer

(Susanna was unable or unwilling to breastfeed, I wasn't sure which) and soothed the baby into more sleep on the curtained bed. It would take a book to tell you how we shopped for a stroller, diapers and more baby formula at a Carrefour two trains away. Susanna carried the baby in a Kangaroo-style pouch. Tia orchestrated the journey and Clarissa slept peacefully the whole afternoon. Late in the day I returned to Paris full of hope, happiness and renewed regard for the family that Susanna had to leave when she was almost a baby and has now warmly welcomed her back into their lives to help her raise her own child.

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Lagoa aims to host Portugal's biggest ever gay festival



On May 14th and 15th Lagoa's FATACIL fair and exhibition grounds will host Allove 2010, the biggest Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transsexual (LGBT) festival ever held in Portugal and the first of its kind in the Algarve.

Organisers estimate between 8,000 and 10,000 people will attend each day and promise it will be the biggest festival of its kind to ever take place in this country. They pledge not only it will bring business to the Algarve, but will temporarily boost local tourism too.

"The idea came about as we know that LGBT festivals can be of enormous importance and we

are trying to attract that vital tourism sector to Portugal", said organizer Hugo Pereira.

"Suffice to see what happens in Spain, Italy, France and Greece, where increasing importance is given to this type of event".

Over the two days in May the venue, which also hosts the annual arts and crafts FATACIL exhibition, will feature a 'red

light' area, sex shops, piercing and tattoo stalls, shell and palm readers, and a gourmet area, amongst other interesting concepts.

The Allove Festival (www.allovefestival.com) will also feature a 'gaydrome', a traditional fair area with rides including a ghost train and a crazy bull, as well as an arts pavilion.

Hugo Pereira stressed that

heterosexuals are welcome to visit the event.

"We see this not only as a business, but also as a celebration of sexual diversity. We don't want to offend in anyway, it is not a private affair and is totally open to the heterosexual community", he said.

Regarding controversy, the organisers suggested that the most radical event that could take place during the festival is a "luxury gay wedding", which will, until the law permits otherwise, remain symbolic.

"We have luxury weddings [in

the pipeline], with a limousine, wedding cake, and a wedding night in a five-star hotel".

However, the event's official Public Relations, David Canelas, told **The Portugal News** that despite the local Town Hall being receptive and supportive of the festival, others greeted it with resistance. In one case, a company blatantly refused to collaborate with the organisation.

"It has been extremely difficult, some people just aren't prepared for it", he said, indicating that homosexuality may still be a topic that in Portugal remains

somewhat taboo.

The event is being sponsored by Lagoa Town Hall, the Algarve Tourism Association, the Abraço Association, and the Movement for Support for the Problem of AIDS (MAPS). Meanwhile, some of the most famous bars from Lisbon have confirmed their presence at the Festival, as well as well-known national entertainers, though the official lineup has yet to be confirmed.

Popular music channel MTV may also be covering the event, which is attracting significant national media attention.



Fatacil at night

Closing of Alicoop shops contested by desperate staff



Alicoop employees are not accepting the closing of the remaining 16 Alicoop shops, threatening to carry out a new protest if Caixa Geral de Depósitos maintains its decision of not lending money to the business to keep it afloat.

In a recent meeting held at Alicoop's headquarters, in Silves, its employees decided not to abandon their jobs and demonstrated their trust in the administration of the company once again. After accumulating debts of €80million, the Algarve supermarket chain is currently in insolvency and has so far suspended the contracts of 380 employees, leaving only 56 in charge of the remaining 16 shops still functioning.

A study carried out by a consultancy company calculated that a €1.2million loan from Caixa Geral de Depósitos would be sufficient to keep the company afloat, but the State's bank has

said that it has exceeded its support and will not be providing the chain with any more credit.

Alicoop employees have said they will not rest until their de-

mands are met and are contemplating carrying out another protest outside the Caixa Geral de Depósitos bank, in Lisbon, just as they did on February 9th.

Loulé renovates city centre

Loulé Council has begun renovating the city centre in order to revive its retail trade and return the República Square to its inhabitants by eliminating the road crossing it.

The work in Loulé will consist of the renovation of Bernardo Lopes Square, one of the city's focal points where the municipal market, several services, courtyards and its university are located.

These renovations coincide with the Centenary of the Republic, with Loulé Council also organizing some exhibitions to honour the celebrations, such as the life of the President of the Republic, who was born in Loulé, and another speaking of Admiral Mendes Cabegada, who was also born in the council and became Chief of State.

To revive local commerce and give the heart of the city a

new image, renovations are taking place in the historic centre in order to make it more functional and more enjoyable for leisure activities. "We want to give back the República Square its function as a square" said Seruca Emídio, Loulé Mayor, adding that the improvements will consist of widening the pavements and laying calçada stones throughout the square.

As it is the city's busiest area, the council has not been able to close the square to traffic, but Seruca Emídio plans to do so in the future: "As there were no other alternatives it wasn't acceptable to prohibit traffic, but that may happen in the future, when the new access road is ready."

The renovations, which commenced last week, are estimated to cost €730,000 and last for seven months.

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Six Algarve beaches considered dangerous



Maria Luisa, Santa Eulália, Inatel, Baleeira, Burgau and Vale Olival are beaches that are considered to be at high risk of cliff collapse, even before the summer season begins, according to an unfinished ARHA report (Algarve Hydrographic Office).

Bad weather keeps golfers away

The harsh winter kept golfers away from the region's courses during the months of December and January, with courses reporting an 18% drop in rounds played compared to the same period the previous year, a more accentuated drop than recorded in the region's hotel occupancy rates, according to AHETA (Algarve Hotels and Tourist Developments Association).

AHETA stated that figures between November and January were the worst seen in the last five years in the region, with an average of five rounds of golf per course in the region for that period.

"There was a lot of rain and that affected business" said Christopher Stilwell, Chairman of the Algarve Golf Association, explaining that Algarve golf registered a 12.3% drop from November to February.

Elidérico Viegas, chairman of AHETA, shared the same opinion regarding the bad weather, but said the plunge is also more noticeable due to the contraction of the British market, the Algarve's biggest

source of revenue in terms of golf and general tourism.

With the weather having improved since February, figures have been returning to normal. Christopher Stilwell revealed that in February there was a less significant drop (7.21%) and in March he believes figures remained the same or increased relative to last year.

Golf is one of the Algarve's most important tourism assets, attracting between 250,000-300,000 tourists per year, which altogether generate around €350 million in receipts, as well as providing the region with all year round tourism.



The collapsed cliff at Maria Luisa beach in Albufeira, that caused five deaths last summer.

With ruthless weather punishing the Algarve's coastline this winter "there were double and even treble the number of cliff collapses than in a normal year" said Sebastião Teixeira, part of ARHA's administration. Altogether there have been 25 collapses registered, but the study of the beaches has not yet been completed and it is likely the figures will increase.

Delminda Moura, a geologist from the Algarve University, said the dangers are serious: "This is a very serious problem because the cliffs have been eroded by the sea from the base and unsupported cliff faces have been created, which could collapse", adding "There are a lot of areas in danger before the bathing season. Something

needs to be done." So far, the ARHA is planning to intervene at six locations, which are considered to be at highest risk of collapse, and have already carried out work in fourteen different areas, causing controlled cliff collapses and reinforcing some cliff faces.

"The cliffs that were considered to be at risk ended up collapsing during the winter, but several new cases have emerged" explained Sebastião Teixeira.

After the cliff collapse that caused five deaths on the Maria Luisa beach, in Albufeira, last summer, authorities are keeping a close eye on the coastline. The beaches in Albufeira and Loulé councils are receiving special attention, as it is in this

area where the cliffs pose the biggest threat.

Cliff collapses aren't the only problems the Algarve's coastline has faced this winter,

protective sand dunes and sand bars have also regressed considerably or even been destroyed, such as the cases on Fuzeta island and Barrinha, in Faro.

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Almancil Int. Rotary Club Gala Dinner

Almancil International Rotary Club Gala Dinner in aid of the 'End Polio Now' appeal starts at 20.00hr and accommodation is available at the Hotel Galé in Vilamoura if required at the special rate of €66 for that night.

The End Polio Now fund was set up by Rotary International in its drive to finally eradicate this pernicious disease from the few pockets in the world where it is still a daily fact of life. Rotary International has over the years been recognised by its leadership in the fight to eradicate the dis-

ease and this is the final push to achieve that aim.

The Rotary Clubs of the Algarve have come together to host this dinner and show, which is open to all who wish to support this worthy cause at the Casino in Vilamoura, who are sponsoring the event, on Saturday, 17th April. Entertainment will be provided by Divina Comédia.

Tickets are €40 per person and further details are available from: peter@rotaryalmancil.org or joaops@benamorgolf.com, or call 916921641/912344552.

Crown green competitions

The Thursday competition (April 1st) held on the crown green at Amendoeira bowls club resulted in a final between Aylt Tait and John Greenwood. Both had won all their games in the round robin stages during the morning, but it was John Greenwood who came out on top by

winning the final 15-10.

The Monday competition (April 5th) resulted in a nail biting final between Stuart Greenwood (brother of John) and Peter Clarke. It was nip and tuck throughout the game with Peter Clarke eventually winning 15-14.

Peter Cain



The Royal British Club Golf Society - The Beefeater Trophy

Last month's game had to be abandoned on the fifth green because of the really bad muddy conditions. There was a good turn out at the Estoril course - thirty three members and two guests with everyone happy to finally be able to enjoy the good golfing weather.

First place this month was won by Eddie Leitão with a commendable 40 points closely followed by Richard Evans with 38 after a disappointing 18th hole! Third prize was awarded to Denys Stormont with 35 points. Fourth, fifth and sixth prizes were hotly contested with all three members scoring 34 points.

After count backs the final order was: Ewan Rankin in 4th place, Bill Buxton in 5th place and Chris Goulding in 6th place. The Newstead Cup was won by Bill Buxton, Nearest the Pin for the Men was won by John Dunsmore and Theresa Mühlenbeck won for

the Ladies.

The Cow Bell was awarded to Chris Judd, the Top Ten Winner was James Scarlett and the Guest Prize went to Thom Bartelse. The Captain's new prize of the Mini Cow Bell - awarded by a draw for members who had not won a prize - was won by Miranda Thomas.

After the game members were treated to an excellent lunch and prize giving at the Beefeater, in Cascais, for which we would like to thank our hosts Derek McIver, his wife Nicky, and Grace and John Chidlow.

Next month's competition - sponsored by Victoria Seguros - will be held at Estoril on Wednesday, May 5th.

Pictured below - Front: Captain Ron Goddard, (L to R) John Chidlow, Denys Stormont, Eddie Leitão, Richard Evans, Derek McIver



AFPOP Charity Dinner and Quiz Night

Friday, 16th April - AFPOP Dinner and Quiz Night at the Hotel Garbe, Armazão de Pêra. The cost of this event, which includes a donation to the Bombeiros is €22.50 for members, and €25.00 for non-members. Meet at 7 pm for 3 course Indian Dinner with wine and coffee

followed by a Prize Quiz. The evening is sponsored by Diamond Cleaning Services, who will be providing the raffle prizes in aid of the Bombeiros. To book a table please telephone Peter/Miriam on 289 512 513 or Lynn on 919 266 770 or e-mail: albufeira@afpop.com.

Walking in the beautiful Algarve

Wed. April 14th - Let's Walk to Conqueiros

A fantastic walk of almost 3 hours but very easy with no real climbs, part of the walk follows the Via Algarviana.

14.00pm Start - meet at the 'Paragem' cafe in Messines Baixo. The village is on the Messines to Alte road (EN 124) and the cafe is at the far end of the village on the right (direction towards Alte and Salir).

Sat. April 17 - Let's Walk from Monte Seco

A fairly easy walk that leads you above the valley with great views over unspoilt countryside and back through tiny hamlets.

14.00pm Start - meet in the centre of Monte Seco. From the A22 take the Boliquireme/Loule exit and follow the signs for Loule. After passing the quarry take the first road left and at the T junction turn left and follow the road through the village of Parragil

and then down hill. After about 1km there is a turn on the left to Monte Seco. Turn and follow the road up into the village where it bends sharp left there are 2 cafes (we meet here)

All are welcome to come along - there is no need to book (there is a charge of €5 per walk which includes a donation to charity).

Please wear comfortable shoes, bring some water and a sense of humour! If you require more details please call: Julie Statham 965753033 / 922244242 or see: www.portugalwalks.com



Bike rides

Sat. 10th April - Movers

Starting Point - Santa Barbara da Nexe - Parking where ever you can close to the centre of Santa Barbara, we will meet by the church in the centre of the village for the start of the ride. Lets meet here at 09.45 am. Start Time: 10.00am. Ride Details: This will be a challenging ride mainly on dirt tracks and some tarmac. There will be a few challenging hills on this ride, but also a cafe stop.

Sun. 11th April - Shakers

Starting Point - Lagoa - Netto Car Park. Just off the main EN125 on the eastern side of Lagoa. Call Paul if you need more detailed directions. Lets meet here at 09.45 am. (My truck will be leaving Alfentes at around 09.00 am for the regulars needing a lift.) Start Time: 10.00 am. Ride details: This will be a fairly easy ride including some sections along the coast round Praia da Rocha.

Bike Hire - Transport

If you need bike hire or transport, then please do let me know in advance so that this can be arranged. I will aim to be at Bikeland from around 09.00 am to 09.15 am on Saturday and can carry hire bikes and several passengers. Bike hire for Sunday needs to be booked in advance as Bikeland is closed on Sundays, if anyone needs a bike then please let me know and I can collect it on Saturday & return on Monday. Anyone needing transport on Sunday please let me know.

Paul Beesley, Activity Algarve, Tel: 913226954, E-mail: paul.beesley@sapo.pt, www.activityalgarve.com, Facebook: Algarve Bike Rides.



Alvor Bowls Club 3rd Annual Australian Pairs Tournament

The third annual Australian pairs tournament took place all last week at the Alvor Club. The

sey. After some tense and close encounters the Reynolds/Clarke, Ewart/Skinner, Reynolds/



Tournament Winners: Ian Watson & Alan Clarke and Plate Winners: Catherine & Mike Webb

tournament has gone from strength to strength each year and has become extremely popular and is undoubtedly now one of the most prestigious tournaments in the Algarve bowling calendar.

This year saw entries from England, Holland and Jersey, as well as a healthy local entry, 32 pairs in all competing for €3,000 in prize money. The unusual and interesting feature of Australian pairs is that both players have to alternately play skipper and lead, so a good all round game and teamwork are essential for success.

The competition is based upon eight groups of four teams playing each other on a round robin basis. Each team playing qualifying matches on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, the top two from each group to qualify for the last 16. Losing pairs going into the attractive plate competition starting on the Thursday.

Despite a very wet Monday morning, the weather improved throughout the week and spectators were treated to some excellent bowling on a very fast, swinging green. By Wednesday night, the sixteen qualifiers were known and these did battle on Thursday morning for a coveted place in the quarter finals on Friday morning.

The draw for the quarter finals was an international affair, with Chris Reynolds (Lindfield, England) and Janice Clarke (PDF, Portugal) paired with John and Sheila Curral from the local Alvor Club; Colin Skinner and Terry Ewart from Essex, England were up against Saskia Schaft and Jan Reinders from Holland; Alan and Frances Reynolds (Alvor) played Terry Hughes (Lindfield) and Malcolm Peters (Alvor) and in the fourth quarter final, Alan Clarke (Alvor) and Ian Watson (Lindfield) took on Geoff and Liz Cole from Jer-

Reynolds and Clarke/Watson combinations emerged victorious and went through to the semi finals on the Saturday morning. Chris and Janice were running into top form and beat Alan and Frances Reynolds by 27-10 to go through to the grand final.

The other semi final was probably the best match of the tournament and saw Alan and Ian defeat Terry and Colin by 21-18 in a most absorbing, skillful and close meeting.

The final was a more tense affair, not helped by a gusty wind across the green. It was made more interesting in that all four competitors hail from the same Sussex club (Lindfield). Eventually the match finished all square 14-14 after eighteen ends of play. A gripping extra end saw Alan and Ian squeeze through to take the title, having been losing semi - finalists last year.

The Plate competition started on Thursday and offered another opportunity to win a title and some worthwhile prize money also. The sixteen non-qualifiers were joined by the eight losing last sixteeners to make up the 24 entries. Each pair played three matches of 12 ends each, the four pairs with the best record going through to the semi - finals on Saturday. After some more good bowling and a few surprising results, Pat Derouane and Sheila Rapsey met Vince Cresswell and Mike Browning (all from Alvor) in one semi, whilst Joan Worrall and John Cooke met last years' overall winners Mike and Catherine Webb in the other. Pat and Sheila won through 17-12 and Mike and Catherine won 21-7 to qualify for the plate final over 15 ends. Another close encounter also required an extra end to decide the outcome, Mike and Catherine eventually winning by 16-15 to take the Plate.

Thanks to Connie and staff at the Alvor Club for the excellent catering and service throughout the week and for preparing such a marvellous green to play on. After the presentations and photos, thoughts turn already to next year, which promises to be a bigger and better event. It is hoped to expand the entry to allow more pairs to take part in this very popular and competitive international tournament, whilst never losing sight of the essentially social and friendly nature of the game of bowls.

Alan Clarke for the Alvor Club

Speed Networking

Another chance to NETWORK in a dynamic and productive way. Following the success of the first Speed Networking session, the Hotel Garbe will once again be the venue on Thursday, April 22nd. Arrive for 9:00am to start at 9:30am. Cost €4 and coffee/water will be provided.

The success of this type of

event completely relies on knowing the number who will be present, as the circulation needs to be determined beforehand.

Therefore, please advise me if you will be attending by April 14th. The number attending is limited to 38. We need to start on time. Thank you in advance. Replies to e-mail address: bowntherapy.lindsey@gmail.com.

Luz Fashion Show and Spring Fair

Praia da Luz is the setting for the Western Algarve's first fashion show and spring fair to be held on Sunday May 2nd at Vila Luz luxury apartment on the outskirts of Luz just west of Lagos. A variety of stalls and displays of fashion accessories and other goods, totalling around 50 exhibitors will be featured throughout the location's beautiful gardens and pool area.

This fashion show promises to be one of the most glamorous social events for fashion conscious ladies and gents ever held in the area. Several fashion shows will take place throughout the day and already it has attracted international labels from fashion houses and boutiques across the Algarve from Lagos to Quinta da Lago. This beautiful location lends itself perfectly to the poolside catwalk to present the new season's summer collections, swimwear and beach wear for both men and woman. The show will also feature the latest trends in fashionable summer footwear.

The 2nd May is a very special day in Portugal, being Mothers Day or Dia da Mãe and this occasion is the ideal day out for all the family. A great excuse for 'yummy mummies' and all mums to dress to impress and join together to celebrate in style with style! The Fair will be a springboard for companies to launch

themselves in the western Algarve and for local firms to meet and greet their clients in a social environment. So far a variety of companies have booked their stands, they range from poolside furniture, sky digital installation, insurance, handcrafted jewellery, interior design, natural body products, family health care and alarm installation.

Stands will be allocated on a first come basis, so the quicker you book the better location you get. We can offer indoor stands as well as outdoor space depending on your requirements.

As well as fashion shows throughout the day there will be other features including an Argentinean Tango display during lunch from 1pm to 2pm and a raffle for lots of prizes and an auction. A special rate of 60 per apartment has been arranged for stand holders wishing to stay overnight. The apartments sleep four people.

The event will run from 11am – 5pm. A variety of food will be served throughout the day. Companies or individuals interested in taking space (priced at €40 per unit) or participating in some other way please contact Liz Ryan, the event organizer. Tel. 917943935, or e-mail: liz@madrugada-portugal.com. You can also visit our website at www.madrugada-portugal.com

Anne Kaas Concerts in April

At the Centro Cultural in São Lourenço these concerts will be on Wednesday, April 14th and Saturday April 17th.

Wednesday's concert will feature Bach's Italian Concerto, Beethoven's Sonata and a dozen Etudes by Chopin. The Saturday concert will consist of Ravel's Pavane pour une Infante défunte and 4 Chopin Ballads. This will be a very welcome return for those concert goers who heard Anne's last piano concerts in September 2007.

Anne Kaas is a Norwegian pianist resident in Lisbon and has been described by the French music revue Le Monde de la Musique as a, "pianist that stands out in the crowded world of soloists by the depth of her interpretations, the fluidity of her playing and the delicacy of her touch".

She first studied in Trondheim, Norway, and then Paris and finally in Lisbon. Anne now teaches at the Lisbon Conservatory. She has played as a soloist at prestigious concert venues

such as London's Wigmore Hall, Lisbon's Grande Auditório da Fundação Gulbenkian, Madrid's Auditorio Nacional and Bergen's Trolldhaugen. Anne has also performed with orchestras including the Gulbenkian, Madrid Community, Portuguese Symphony, Florence Chamber, Porto National and the Granada.

Ms. Kaas has recorded for national radio and television in France, Spain, Slovenia, Italy, Norway and Portugal. She has performed in chamber music concerts with the very well known Norwegian violinist Arve Tellefsen and the Portuguese clarinetist António Saiote.

Anne and her actress daughter, Kjersti Kaas, performed together at a concert in Belém in late 2007 organised by Portugal's Antena 2 radio station in which Kjersti read some poetic monologues from Peer Gynt whilst Anne provided the piano accompaniment. More recently Anne played the entire Peer Gynt suite on Antena 2 in a programme that was recorded. She has a repertoire that extends from Bach to contemporary music and her recordings of the works of Grieg, Ravel and Taccuchian have received great critical acclaim.

Concerts at the Centro Cultural begin at 7.30pm sharp. Wine, lemonade and 'nibbles' are served from 7.00pm. During the interval wine and canapés will be served. Tickets are €25 for guests and non-members.

For more information visit: www.amigos-de-musica.org or www.centrocultural.sao-lourenco.com, or call 289395475.



Concert pianist Anne Kaas

Municipality of Águeda promotes birdwatching

The Municipality of Águeda is promoting a birdwatching activity on April 10, Saturday, covering the shores of the Pateira de Fermentelos and the rice fields of the Cértima river valley.

The meeting point for this activity will be at the Picnic Park in Espinhel (a meeting point at the city of Águeda 6 kms away may be arranged). The reception of the birders is scheduled between 8:00 and 8:15.

The participants will be happy to appreciate an area of serious ecological and natural value—with open lake, reedbeds, and rice fields—included in the Natura 2000 network, and the



A birdwatching tower



Special Protection Area of the Ria de Aveiro under the Birds Directive, and, of course, zoom their scopes on the many species which choose this ecosystem as their habitat.

As usual, birders should bring comfortable shoes and clothing. The end of the activity is programmed for 12:00 maximum (depending on weather and birding

conditions).

The activity is limited to 12 participants ("first come, first served!"), so please reach us on agueda.birdwatching@gmail.com (a form is available at www.cm-agueda.pt) or call us to 962096985 (Luís Arruda will be happy to assist you!). **This activity is free (no fees, charges or tips!).**

Programme:

8:00 – Reception at the Picnic Park in Espinhel

8:15 – Beginning of the activity

12:00 – Return to the Picnic Park in Espinhel

The Municipality of Águeda will promote more birdwatching field activities, so watch this space.

Careers Symposium 2010

Ever wondered what it is really like to be a chef, a golf professional or work in the offshore industry or music recording? Students from all the International Schools in the Algarve were invited to attend the annual Careers Symposium, held this year at International School of the Algarve on 23rd March. The symposium was aimed at looking at careers with a difference where your passions can be exploited to the full.

Trevor Holman, from the Algarve Recording Company told students how important it is to make sure that you can make a living out of your love for music and how being a song writer can be more profitable than performing. Jason Hoyle started his career with a course in business studies but went on to follow his passion for golf and now works as a Professional at prestigious Quinta do Lago course.

Similarly James McLaughlin began training as an Engineer in the Royal Navy where he learned to scuba dive, leading to opening his own company, ROV World. He and his wife control Remote Operated Vehicles in offshore locations all over the world laying pipe line and cables. Celebrated chef Jonnie Pratt, emphasised that although he has had many jobs all over the world he is happiest in his own restaurant Bis-

tro de Z'Artes, Almancil where he can talk to the people he pleases with his cooking.

Finally the IE University in Madrid outlined the courses that they are offering which are all in the English language. They place a huge importance in gaining practical work experience to enhance securing a job at the end of the course. This is especially important in the current economic climate.

If you feel able to offer yourself as a speaker about your career path at next year's presentation please contact Gwenda Daud on 918376657. The first hand information passed on at these events is invaluable to these young people who are just starting on their working future.



Celebrated Chef Jonnie Pratt

Wolf Valley Charity Golf Day at Vale Do Lobo

This year the Wolf Valley Charity's Golf and Family Day will take place at Vale do Lobo on Saturday, June 5th. It is open to everyone. The Charity Day events will include a Golf Tournament on the Royal and Ocean courses (Four Ball Better Ball Stableford – teams of two – partners can be arranged).

Prices for the golf (including a €5 voucher that can be spent at Spikes) are €60 per person. Buggies will be available (please call

+351-289353465) to make bookings. In addition there will be Putting Competition; a raffle with excellent prizes including air tickets; tombola; wine tasting; a book stall and a cake stall. An added attraction is the Hole-In-One Competition for which the prizes are two Audis – one on each of the golf courses.

For more details or to make bookings contact the WVCF at wolfvc@yahoo.com or call (+351) 289394655.

Senses... Skin Care Centre Open Day

On Saturday, 17th April Senses... Skin Care Centre in Lagos is holding an Open Day to celebrate scooping the coveted 'Therapist of the Year Award', at the recently-held Professional Beauty Awards. Senses therapist Suzie Bell received the award, the first therapist outside the UK and one of the youngest ever to achieve the accolade.

The annual Professional Beauty Awards are the most prestigious awards in the industry and are a landmark achievement for those who make the cut. Senses are offering all The Por-

tugal News readers a free consultation with Therapist of the Year Suzie Bell, as well as 40% off a non surgical facelift treatment. Visitors can also enjoy a taster treatment, either a reflexology or mini back, neck and shoulder massage, as well as other great offers on all facial and massage courses. Senses will also be launching new Micro Dermabrasion treatments.

Booking appointments for Saturday is advised to avoid disappointment. For more information, contact Senses on: (+351) 282 762 261 or 913 275 869.

Flower Festival

A Flower Festival to celebrate Spring in St Luke's Church, Gorjoes, near Sta Barbara de Nexe on 22nd 23rd and 24th April from 2 to 5pm. There will be numerous arrangements, some sponsored by national and local organisations, and all under the expert guidance of Pamela Stafford Brown, who has great experience

of flower festivals and floral decorating.

Entry will be €5, children free, Cream teas will be available in the Village Hall of Monte da Palhagreira Retirement Village. The Festival is in aid of St Vincent's Church of England Chaplaincy and its associated charities.



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The opinions expressed here are those of our readers and not necessarily of The Portugal News. The editor reserves the right to edit letters or refuse publication. Send your letters, which must include your name and full postal address (even if you wish to remain anonymous on the page), and should be under 300 words, to The Portugal News, Apartado 13, 8401-901 Lagoa. E-mail address: letters@theportugalnews.com

Madeira update

SIR, When my husband and I recently said that we were off for a visit to Funchal, people wondered why we hadn't heard that Madeira had been 'washed away'.

We'd booked the trip last year, and February's tragic storm was of course all too clear in our minds when we saw scenes of devastation on TV. However the Portuguese press soon reported a massive clean-up operation, and the island was officially pronounced 'in business again'. Since the island's business is mainly tourism we had no second thoughts about going.

What we found was staggering. Firstly because of the sheer force of nature which caused such a volume of rock and earth to be washed from the mountains down to the city centre. Secondly what struck us was the extent and intensity of the clean-up operation.

Work has gone on round the clock to repair the damage, and you can now walk everywhere through the city centre. Things such as the market and public transport are operating as usual, and businesses are all getting back into action, so that in many places you wouldn't know that anything had happened.

But it was in restaurants that we were really able to hear of first-hand experiences. Staff had worked solidly to clean and re-decorate in order to re-open as soon as possible, but even so there was talk of redundancies because tourists are very clearly

not coming in their normal numbers. We heard of people volunteering to work without pay rather than lose their jobs.

This is why I decided write this letter. Madeira has always been a delightful place for a winter or spring visit and it would be a shame if misconceptions about the storm damage deter people from visiting and providing vital help for the recovery effort. So if you've ever thought about going there, do so now. If you haven't, think about it, and at the very least spread the word that Madeira is open for business.

SHEILA WATTS, Figueira

Loulé Aerodrome

SIR, As reported in last week's issue of The Portugal News, in my view the plan to build an aerodrome in Loulé is environmentally unsound, a waste of public money, elitist and about as well researched as the Algarve's international football stadium that is hardly ever used.

The President of Loulé Câmara claims the new aerodrome will cater for an average of 17 flights per day. According to his logic and I quote: -



The area of Loulé which is at risk.

"Loulé's tourist resorts and more than a dozen golf courses are a reason for us to want to take this project forward."

Who are these beach-loving, golf-playing wealthy executives flitting in and out of the Algarve? Even Sir Cliff Richard travels here by schedule flights.

When Portugal is suffering from the worst and deepest recession in living memory, is an executive aerodrome a wise way of spending money?

Why should an attractive unspoiled valley be destroyed in order to build a runway when similar facilities exist 15kms away at Faro?

As a local resident I believe I am entitled to ask for answers to these questions.

CAROLYN KAIN, By e-mail

Response to Norman Thomson

SIR, I must agree with Norman Thomson [Letters, 20th March]. When is this going stop regarding Madeleine McCann? I feel so sorry for the wee girl, but when are the parents going to admit they more were at fault for leaving that poor child in an apartment. They could just as easily have lost their full family.

If they had been at home in the UK they would have had all their children taken from them for abandoning them. I feel they are on the bandwagon and milking it dry.

DAVID BROWN, By e-mail

Carvoeiro village square

SIR, I write in response to the views of Sian Hughes Roberts to point out that there are just as many, if not more visitors and residents who feel that the changes to Carvoeiro are a significant improvement to the grey, traffic-infested car park that existed before.

We can now see the sea and beach and walk along car free pavements rather than walk around and avoid poorly parked cars and those in search of a parking place. A new café culture is

developing taking advantage of wider car free pavements. The square has seating which many enjoy on sunny days.

Of course nothing is perfect, the traffic flow needs to be examined but there will be 90 new parking spaces in the Algar Seco area. The solution is certainly not as suggested by some (with vested interests) to take the village back to the 1970s.

Lagoa Câmara is to be congratulated on its attempts to restore Carvoeiro's 'village atmosphere'.

T. B. ROSS, By e-mail

Guinea-Bissau in 'last chance saloon', warns Portugal

Time is running out for Guinea-Bissau's political and military leaders to salvage their country's severely battered international image, says Portuguese Foreign Minister Luís Amado nearly a week after mutinous troops replaced the country's military chief.

Minister Amado told Lusa News Agency on an official visit to Mongolia that the former Portuguese colony faces two stark choices: Either opting for stability and democracy or becoming a failed state.

He said he had been in daily contact with Guinean leaders since the events of April 1, when rebel troops put Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Junior under house arrest for several hours and also detained armed forces commander Zamora Induta who remains in army custody.

Portugal's head of diplomacy said all Guinea's political and

military factions appear committed to resolving the country's latest flare-up of instability, but Bissau's government is still "hostage to a military structure that has to accommodate the rules of a democratic state."

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Gomes Junior has described last week's events as an "incident" that has already been overcome. Guinea's leader was speaking Tuesday after talks with President Malam Bacai Sanha and former deputy armed forces chief, Maj. Gen. Antonio Indjai, now effectively military chief.

But Guinea's Prime Minister would not confirm who is actually the country's armed forces commander, saying the issue had not been discussed in the three-way encounter. Maj. Gen. Indjai, in turn, said he had no problems with Gomes Junior and that Guinea will soon resume normal functioning.

TPN/Lusa

EU visa accord by year's end, says Brussels

Cape Verde will sign an agreement with the European Union to facilitate visa issue for islanders wishing to travel to the 27-state bloc for a range of reasons, diplomatic sources said.

Josep Coll, EU Ambassador to Praia, said the accord is part of the mobility partnership already established between the archipelago and Brussels and already signed up to by member states Portugal, Spain, France and Luxembourg.

TPN/Lusa

Justice, business and environment pacts inked with Peru

Portugal and Peru have this week signed a chain of cooperation accords in areas including justice, business and the environment, a Lisbon government official said. António Braga, State Secretary for Portuguese Communities, told the Lusa News Agency the bilateral justice pact deals with extradition of Portuguese convicted in Peru. Around 60 Portuguese are currently serving jail terms in Peru for drugs trafficking.

Important agreements have also been established in the areas of business and the environment. The Portuguese official began a four-day visit to Peru on Tuesday, with Lisbon's bid for a non-permanent UN Security Council seat high on his agenda.

TPN/Lusa

Portuguese for Beginners

⇒ Put the verbs in brackets in "Presente Simples do Indicativo".

1. Eles nunca ____ (nadar) no rio porque a água ____ (ser) muito fria.
2. O que tu ____ (achar) do novo presidente?
3. A que horas ____ (fechar) as lojas no centro da cidade?
4. O filme ____ (durar) três horas: ____ (começar) às duas e ____ (acabar) às cinco.
5. Onde vocês ____ (comprar) este pão?
6. Durante as férias, as pessoas ____ (acordar) um pouco mais tarde.
7. BOMBEIRO ____ (salvar) CRIANÇAS DAS CHAMAS.
8. As mães ____ (cuidar) de crianças.
9. Todos os dias as crianças ____ (brincar), muito animadas, no jardim. Normalmente, os meninos ____ (jogar) futebol e as meninas ____ (dançar) ou ____ (andar) de patins.
10. A Mariana e o Roberto nunca ____ (almoçar) em casa porque ____ (morar) longe do escritório onde ____ (trabalhar).



LESSON 30

Regular verbs in -AR in the Present Simple

⇒ Match the verbs on the left with the most correct words on the right. Then write complete sentences by conjugating the verb in "Presente Simples do Indicativo" - the subject is given in brackets.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. emprestar (tu) | a) um duche |
| 2. depositar (ela) | b) um documento |
| 3. assinar (você) | c) um instrumento |
| 4. encontrar (eu) | d) uma canção |
| 5. tomar (nós) | e) a sala de jantar |
| 6. cortar (elas) | f) dinheiro |
| 7. decorar (eles) | g) uma corrida |
| 8. ganhar (ele) | h) as unhas |
| 9. guiar (vocês) | i) um amigo |
| 10. tocar (ele) | j) um carro antigo |
| 11. cantar (elas) | k) o computador |
| 12. ligar (eles) | l) um livro |

Hillary Clinton asked to remember Portuguese priorities at Summit

Five Democratic members of the United States have asked Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to pay special attention to Portuguese priorities at a NATO leaders' summit later this year in Lisbon.

"As members of the Portuguese Congress Group we ask you to deal with Portugal as an important member of the world community and that appropriate times is given to discuss its national priorities in the sphere of our bilateral and transatlantic relations," said Congressmen Jim Costa, Dennis Cardoza, Barney Frank, Jim McGovern and Patrick Kennedy in a letter sent late March to Clinton.

"The Portuguese govern-

ment is concerned that, during the summit, there may not be time given for a robust and constructive examination of the challenges faced by Portugal," the five members of the US House of Representatives told America's top diplomat.

Portugal hosts its first NATO summit at a date to be fixed between November 19-20, Foreign Minister Luís Amado recently confirmed.

TPN/Lusa

Mosques and Cathedrals

There was an unpleasant incident in Cordoba cathedral last week. It was the world's second-biggest mosque until the Spanish reconquest of the city in the thirteenth century, and a group of 120 Muslim tourists from Austria was visiting it. Suddenly, half a dozen of them began to pray – and the security guards intervened and told them to stop. They refused, so the police were called.

Two young men from the group still would not stop, there was a scuffle between them and the police, and they were arrested. One security guard and one policeman, we are told, were “slightly injured”, but one suspects that they did not need time off work to recover. (“...and then the accused struck me right in the fist with his face, Your Honour, causing this cut on my ring finger.”)

The bishop's office offers a more lurid account of the incident, in which the tourists “provoked in a pre-planned fashion what was a deplorable episode of violence.” The spokeswoman for the National Police, Rosa Ortiz, who may have seen a bit more real violence than the bishop, said it was just a “showing match” between the police and the two men, who were aged (surprise!) 19 and 23.

And that's all that happened. But you just know, given the delicate state of relations between Muslims and Christians in this time, that the blogs and websites that obsess about such things are going to make a big deal out of it. Especially since the Roman Catholic bishop of Cordoba, Demetrio Fernandez, recently reaffirmed the ban on Muslims praying in the building.

What he actually said was: “The shared use of the cathedral by Catholics and Muslims would not contribute to the peaceful co-existence of the faiths.” It sounds very stuffy and old-fashioned, but I think he's right. Because I keep thinking about what would happen if a bunch of Christian tourists went into the Ayasofya mosque in Istanbul and tried to perform some sort of Christian ceremony.

Ayasofya was known as Hagia Sofia Cathedral (and the city was known as Constantinople) until the Ottoman conquest in 1453. For a thousand years it was the largest cathedral in the world, but Mehmet II, the Ottoman emperor who finally breached the city's walls, had it converted to a

mosque. The bells, altar and iconostasis were removed and replaced by a mihrab and minbar, the Christian mosaics were plastered over, and four minarets were added at the exterior corners.

That's how things were done in those days. The borders between Christendom and Islam moved back and forth a lot during the thousand-year struggle between the new faith and the slightly older one, and when either side gained new territory or recovered lost lands, it immediately put its stamp on them.

Since Islam's first wave of expansion almost exclusively involved the conquest of formerly Christian countries, many of the great mosques of the Arab world outside Arabia are built on the remains of Christian churches – except al-Aqsa in Jerusalem, of course, which is built on what remains of the Jewish Second Temple. (And under that are a few traces of Solomon's Temple, and under them, in all likelihood, are the foundations of some even older pagan temple.)

The great mosque that is now Cordoba cathedral was built on the ruins of an 8th-century Christian church, and you'd probably find some stones from an earlier Roman temple under that: people build their places of worship in the same places, over and over again. But once they have changed hands, the only sensible thing to do is to accept it. There are too many fanatics around: we are not yet at the point where sharing makes sense.

It would be nice if history were over: if we were all grown-ups now, and we could share this church or that mosque without conflict. But I know Christians who think that Islam is “the Devil's religion,” and that it is trying to take over the world. And I know many Muslims who cannot see that the Crusades and the Reconquista were Christian counter-offensives to recover lost lands, not unprovoked attacks on Islam.

So everybody is a victim in their own minds, and the historical resentments are only a millimetre below the skin in many people, and it would be a really bad idea to provide a place where those resentments could fester and grow. If you allow Islamic religious services in Cordoba cathedral, for example, or Christian services in the Ayasofya mosque, you know exactly the sort of extremists and obsessives that it would attract.

Except that Ayasofya isn't a mosque any more. In 1935 the government of the Turkish Republic turned it into a museum where NOBODY is allowed to perform religious ceremonies, and you could certainly count on a “show-

ing match” with the security guards, if not something more, if you tried. It was a cathedral for a thousand years, it was a mosque for five hundred, and now it's a museum. Full stop.

That, perhaps, is the best solution for Cordoba cathedral and a few other high profile church-and-mosques as well. Make them museums for everybody, not active places of worship for anybody, and the heat goes out of the situation: no more winners and losers. But the Spaniards are probably not ready for that yet. They were an occupied country for seven hundred years.

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf (C), accompanied by Spanish Minister of Culture, Carmen Calvo (3-L) and religious authorities, arrived at Cordoba cathedral, inside the premises of the former Mosque built up by the Moors in the early 8th century, 25 April 2007. President Musharraf was visiting Spain to strengthen bilateral relations. (Photo: EPA/José Manuel Vidal)



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Gwynne Dyer is a London based independent journalist whose articles are published in 45 countries.

It is all about 'how to:'

How to make your Ink Cartridges last longer

Printers are dirt cheap these days. High quality inkjet models are readily available for around €50. How can the manufacturers afford to sell them so inexpensively? The answer is simple: they make it up by charging inflated prices for the ink cartridges.

Today's printing tasks really soak up the ink too! With every-thing printing high resolution photos and graphics from the web, it's a wonder they don't just give you the printer for free so they can sell you those high-priced ink cartridges. Some ink cartridges cost almost as much as the printer (literally)!

Tips for making your ink cartridges last longer:

- Print documents that are in black and white with a black ink cartridge. If you print black with a color ink cartridge, various colors are mixed to create the black ink. This depletes your color ink cartridge a lot faster than it would deplete a black ink cartridge.

- Printing rough drafts in draft mode (the lowest resolution setting) will use up your precious ink cartridge much slower than a higher quality setting. When

you're ready to print the final version you can switch back to high quality mode.

- If you need a copy of a document for archival purposes only (for instance a receipt where you paid a bill online), use the lowest resolution possible (but be sure you can read it).

- Don't print the entire document if you only really need to print a portion of it. If you print 1/2 of a document every time, your ink cartridges will last twice as long. And if you can skip printing the images your ink cartridges will last even longer! Simply select the desired part of the document, right click, then click "print".

- Use the Print Preview option. Ever printed something from the web only to find that it didn't fit the page? What a waste of ink,

paper and time! Fortunately, this is one problem that can be avoided: just hit "print preview" before you send anything to print, and you'll be able to catch and correct any issues before they make it onto paper.

- Remove a color cartridge that isn't printing all the colors and wipe the bottom of it where the ink comes out firmly with a damp paper towel or lint-free cloth to unclog the nozzle instead of re-



placing it with a new cartridge. This will help the colors of ink flow more freely from the cartridge.

- Continue to print even when your printer light comes on or you get a warning saying that your ink is low instead of changing the cartridge immediately. You may still get many extra pages out of a cartridge by doing this. Keep printing until the ink is almost completely gone.

Other suggestions for saving on ink cartridges:

- If you have a cheap printer (in the €50-€75 range), give refilled ink cartridges a try. The printer manufacturers are quick to tell you that refilled ink cartridges can damage your printer. That's true. But it rarely happens. Think of it this way: If your ink cartridges cost €30 new and €15 refilled, after you have purchased just three refilled ink

cartridges you have saved almost enough money to replace that €50 printer with a brand new one.

- When you find yourself shopping for a new printer, take into consideration the cost of the ink cartridges. One printer might require ink cartridges that cost €35 or the one sitting right next to it might use ink cartridges that cost €20!

Conclusion Ink cartridges are very expensive. By using the simple suggestions mentioned above, you can make your ink cartridges last a lot longer without burning holes in your wallet.

How to extend your Laptop Battery life

Laptops tend to lose their charm quickly when you're constantly looking for the nearest power outlet to charge up. How do you keep your battery going for as long as possible? Here are several ways to do so.

- Hibernate not standby - Although placing a laptop in standby mode saves some power and you can instantly resume where you left off, it doesn't save anywhere as much power as the hibernate function does. Hibernating a PC will actually save your PC's state as it is, and completely shut itself down.

- Run off a hard drive rather than CD/DVD - As power consuming as hard drives are, CD and DVD drives are worse. Even having one in the drive can be power consuming. They spin, taking power, even when they are not actively being used.

- Dim your screen - Most laptops come with the ability to dim your laptop screen. Some even come with ways to modify CPU and cooling performance. Cut them down to the lowest level you can tolerate to squeeze out some extra battery life.

- Defrag regularly - The faster your hard drive does its work the less demand you are going to put on the hard drive and your battery. Make your hard drive as efficient as possible by defragging it regularly.

- Cut down on programs running in the background. DVD Burning software, Desktop Search, iTunes etc. All these add to the CPU load and cut down battery life. Shut down everything that isn't crucial when you're on battery.

- Cut down external devices - USB devices (including your mouse) & Wi-Fi drain down your laptop battery. Remove or shut them down when not in use. It goes without saying that charging other devices (like your iPod) with your laptop when on battery is a surefire way of quickly

wiping out the charge on your laptop battery.

- Go easy on the PC demands - Passive activities like email and word processing consume much less power than gaming or playing a DVD. If you've got a single battery charge - pick your priorities wisely.

Laptop batteries are expensive, often costing well over €100! The longer you can make your laptop batteries last, the more money you'll save. It doesn't take many replacement notebook batteries to add up to what you paid for the entire computer!

Factors that can lead to the premature failure of laptop batteries:

- The more often a notebook battery is charged and discharged, the quicker it will fail.

- If you always recharge your battery after each use even if you only use the computer for a few minutes, it will need to be replaced sooner.

- Every time you allow your laptop battery to discharge 100%, it will recharge to a slightly lower level the next time. If you do this often, your batteries won't last very long at all.

- The heat produced by prolonged use and leaving it on the charger for extended periods can degrade a notebook battery very quickly.

Tips for making your notebook batteries last longer:

- Don't recharge your notebook battery until it is about 80% discharged. Since you'll be subjecting it to fewer charge/discharge cycles it will last longer.

- Use the battery as little as possible. Remove it and plug the PC into an AC power source whenever you can.

- If you plan to store a notebook battery for an extended period, don't recharge it first.

- Never allow your notebook batteries to discharge completely.



Kurt Pardon • I.T. Director
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Classy Cabriolet

Cutting-edge technology and clever innovations clubbed with good looks and spaciousness makes the E350 CGI Cabriolet an excellent machine.

The astonishingly vast Mercedes-Benz line-up has become a little simpler of late, with the CLK coupe and cabriolet models being replaced by new versions badged E-Class.

If there is a German equivalent of the Plain English Campaign, it may well be jumping with Teutonic joy. The CLK experiment was a highly successful one for Mercedes, with the rebranded E-Class variants proving more popular than ever, but as much of that was surely down to the quality of the vehicles as it was the allure of a more exotic moniker.

The E-Class badge allows the uninitiated, or those simply daunted by a list of prefixes that would give a computer programmer nightmares, more of an insight into what's on offer in terms of size and the place in the range.

Ironically, as identification has become simpler, the car itself has become more complicated. Always a leader in technology and innovations, Mercedes has not been resting on its laurels with the new E-Class Cabriolet.

The big development comes in the shape of the new AirCap system. A simple idea neatly ex-

ecuted, the AirCap extends from the top of the window frame and acts as a frontal deflector sending the airflow arcing over the top of the car and improving interior refinement with the roof down.

It works well, although the effects are more noticeable for rear seat passengers. There's a much reduced degree of buffeting at speed, extending the options for top-down driving as the reduced air movement within the cabin allows a steady temperature to be maintained using the climate control and, for front seat passengers, the neck warming AirScarf system. The trade off is a steady whoosh as air diverts around the device.

Using the same two-door, four-seat layout as the E-Class Coupe, the new Cabriolet features a canvas roof. It's a very discreet piece of canvas however, with the vehicle's rising belt line only requiring a small piece of fabric to cover the occupants. The Cabriolet manages to retain the same enormous glass house as the Coupe, an impressive feat that aids visibility and gives the cabin an airy feel.

Stowing in less than 20 seconds, the roof takes a chunk out of the



reasonably accommodating boot space but leaves a delicious profile in its absence. On the way back up it pours into place in an eerily hushed manner, with the exception of a reassuring clunk as it hooks into the windscreen frame. Mercedes claims the canvas roof offers the same rollover resistance as the fixed-head coupe, an impressive feat.

A range of three diesel and four petrol engines is available on the new model, all boasting the BlueEfficiency badge with the exception of the range topping E500 V8.

The 3.5-litre 288bhp unit in the E350 CGI seems particularly well suited to the E-Class Cabriolet. Naturally more refined than the impressive diesel units, its performance doesn't fall far short of the range topping model, all be it without the distinctive V8 rumble.

Mercedes' seven-speed automatic transmission is a key component in the model's driveability too. It offers a range of ratios that means the E350 CGI is never caught wanting. Slick changes come quickly when low speed cruising, upping the pace and se-

lecting the sport option allows the gears to be held for longer, wringing out the power from the top of the rev range. It's reactive enough to negate the need to use the paddle shifters and the model's responsive chassis can be enjoyed using the fully auto setting.

The light canvas roof and chunky, high-shouldered body means the E-Class Cabriolet feels solid, roof up or down, with scuttle shake virtually eradicated and an ability to ride bumps that's within touching distance of the E-Class saloon.

And thanks to a spacious cabin, the impressive level of interior refinement and high quality materials can be enjoyed by four occupants. A genuine four-seater, the rear can comfortably accept two adults with large doors and automatic sliding seats making it easy to access.

With its high end specification and clever innovations the E-Class Cabriolet is not a simple car, but adhering to a list of simple qualities such as refinement, good looks and spaciousness makes the E350 CGI Cabriolet simply excellent.

Source: PA/TPN



Model: Mercedes-Benz E350 CGI Cabriolet, €76,401.00

Engine: 3.5 litre petrol unit developing 288bhp and 364Nm of torque

Transmission: Seven speed automatic transmission driving the rear wheels.

Performance: Top speed 250kph, 0-100kph 6.8seconds.

CO2 emissions: 206 g/km.

Economy: 7.17L/100km.



BMW Group fosters intercultural commitment worldwide

The BMW Group is presenting its Award for Intercultural Commitment for the first time in 2010. Applicants from all over the world are invited to submit their ideas on the peaceful coexistence of different cultures by 31 May 2010.

The initiators behind the three best project proposals will be honoured with the award and prize money at a ceremony hosted in Munich on 18 November 2010.

Over the course of one year, the company will provide each award winner with a customized package of services concerning organizational, strategic, practical and technological matters. The award competition is one of the BMW Group's contributions to bridging

the gap between different cultures and environments.

"To make intercultural understanding work" emphasizes Harald Krüger, member of the Board of Management of BMW AG and Chairman of the award competition, "it is necessary to establish a multifaceted culture that is open to people from different cultural backgrounds and environments. The BMW Group Award for Intercultural Commitment is intended to make a contribution by motivating people to enter into an open dialogue and join hands."

For further information on the award competition and application requirements please see www.bmwgroup.com/award.

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Learn to sail and explore the



Pictured above: Kapi Creek, Turkey, and below: members of Seafarer Holidays yacht crew planning their next route.



A force five wind sharply heeled our yacht almost 30 degrees as we raced across the huge, choppy expanse of the Skopea Limani cruising grounds off the coast of Turkey.

As I strained every muscle to maintain balance, and turn the starboard helm wheel to keep our 37-foot Oceanis 40 on the optimum track, I got a nonchalant thumbs up from skipper Mehmet Dokuzoglu perched high on the port side.

That really meant something, because the 32-year-old, from the Turkish marina town of Marmaris on the Mediterranean Turquoise Coast coast, knows the area's winds, waters and an-

chorages like the back of his hand.

The last sailing I did was on tiny dinghy as part of a crew in UK estuary waters, many years ago, so to control the graceful £100,000 Oceanis 40 in testing conditions was an exhilarating moment.

I found the confidence to helm the Zynobia three days into our week-long learn-to-sail holiday, partly because Mehmet assured me the yacht would not capsize, even with its mast in the deep waters of Skopea Limani - a six-mile stretch of water sheltered by towering hills from high winds.

Gradually the skipper passed on his knowledge of sailing, by setting me tasks to build my grasp of boat control and making the best of the winds.

However, there was no steep learning curve. This was also a holiday in truly idyllic surroundings true to the brochure - blazing sunshine, warm winds, deep blue waters and a beautiful coast.

We sunbathed, swam and lunched in coves and anchorages along the coast, where pine and olive tree-dotted hills plunged steeply into incredibly clear waters - welcoming, even in mid-October.

If you wished, you could simply lie back and admire the view while Mehmet happily sailed on, but as a complete novice, I wanted to learn how to actually sail this three-cabin craft - one of a flotilla of eight.

So, Mehmet carefully explained the sheets, lines, winches and fittings, got me hauling up the mainsail and helping to tack the Zynobia to get the best of the winds.

Generally, the winds were light, and there were few other craft around. If the wind died, Zynobia motored along, and I could spot sealife - dolphins, a huge turtle a few feet away from the hull, and flying fish flashing across the surface of the water.

As Mehmet explained: "If you do not know much about sailing, you learn as you go along. With

over 100 metres of water and light winds, it is a good area to learn."

The flotilla format means that at the end of the day, all crews gather for a traditional Turkish meal to discuss the day's sailing, at the spot on a spectacular coast where they stopped for lunch and a swim.

Crucial to the progress of the flotilla was the lead boat skippered by Ipek Ozen, with engineer Silar Keskin and hostess Francesca Evans - to provide the daily briefing about the mooring destination, wind, tide and social arrangements.

The lead boat crew was also always on hand on land or at sea to give help, mooring advice or directions by radio or phone - reassuring in unfamiliar waters.

Only the 2007 seven-built Zynobia had a skipper provided, while clients who skippered the others were recommended to have an International Certificate of Competence or Day Skipper qualification.

Those with limited sailing experience can skipper after taking a pre-flotilla or RYA training course.

My flotilla voyage began from lively Marmaris, transformed by tourism, with each yacht going its own way to that day's tie up spot.

After motoring and sailing in light winds, Mehmet picked a tiny, wooded cove for lunch from our fridge, filled with provisions before we left Marmaris.

The pure white Zynobia lazily swung on her anchor in deep water around 20 yards from the steep rocky shore, where pines and olives crowded the waterline. Perfect for a long swim in beautifully clear, deep waters while local fishlife played around me.

We tied up for the night at the wooden jetty at Ekincik, where a punch party was thrown for the flotilla on the docks before dinner in a woods-surrounded open-air restaurant. I also picked local fish from a selection brought to the table.

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Mooring a Seafarer yacht.

Turkish coast

Locally caught fresh fish, including sea bass and red snapper, was a big feature of our menus, with various shishkebabs, and abundant meze - vegetable starter dishes shared by all - and delicious local bread.

The next day - after another lazy lunch-in-a-cove stopover - we motored through a narrow gap between two steep hillsides into the vast Skopea Limanis.

We cruised in the sunshine to tie up at the far end, with seven other boats, at beautiful Wall Bay, set under towering, wooded cliffs. It had just a couple of wooden jetties and a simple, rustic, open-air, water's edge restaurant.

After a late night chat at our table over raki with one of the owners, Yuksel Yorulmaz, I was allowed to spend a magical night nearby in a tiny, windowless, thatched Turkish-carpeted cabin on stilts a few feet out into the water - a welcome change from my cramped berth in Zynobia's forepeak.

Light winds meant Mehmet had time to give basic Turkish lessons as we motored the big marina in Fethiye - I can now order a white coffee without sugar - where we dined that night in a bustling square under a canopy of lantern-lit vines.

In Fethiye's narrow streets, some places promise you will be



A flotilla of yachts in Cold Water Bay, Turkey.

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"reborn", with a traditional hamam massage.

At the end of next day's sailing, we squeezed into the pretty Kapi Creek restaurant, with candlelit tables laid under the stars, as chefs produced a traditional meal for the crews of around 20 yachts on a simple wood fire range. The mood was so relaxed that some restaurant staff even found time to sit down for a raki and a talk.

Our last day was a short hop into the sailing port of Goecek. Mehmet reckoned that I was capable of motoring the Oceanis 40 out into open water, sailing her and bringing her back to the marina. As long as he was aboard, I really believed I could.

Key facts

Best for: Learning to sail and cruising in deep, tideless waters with mainly light winds.

Time to go: To avoid crowds go early or late in the year - there should still be good weather.

Don't miss: Mooring in a little cove for lunch on deck.

Need to know: Travel light - you can wash t-shirts and shorts, as they dry quickly on deck.

Don't forget: Original sailing certificates if you are skipping a yacht.

Travel facts

Chris Court was a guest of Seafarer which offers seven-night

holidays, based on four sharing an Oceanis 323 in a flotilla (self-sail for qualified skipper and crew) from £559/€634, including return flights ex-Gatwick, transfers, yacht hire, welcome pack and punch party, services of flotilla lead yacht crew, all fuel, full

tank of water and cooking gas. Fourteen nights from £775/€879, which also includes a beach party barbecue. A dedicated instructor on board costs £120/€136 a day.

Seafarer also offers one week pre-flotilla and Royal Yachting Association courses from £499/

€566 per person on a shared tuition yacht (flights extra). Seafarer also operates flotillas in Greece and Croatia in the summer, and Caribbean in winter. Reservations: Tel. 0044 (0)800 496 4670 and www.seafarersailing.co.uk.

Chris Court



Lunch onboard a Seafarer yacht.

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APRIL 14 & 17

Piano Concerts by Anne Kaas - April 14 at 19h30: Works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Ludwig Van Beethoven and Frédéric Chopin; April 17 at 19h30: Works by Maurice Ravel and Frédéric Chopin - Drinks and snacks will be served - Admittance: to cover part of the costs €25 per person - Centro Cultural São Lourenço - Bookings: 289 395 475 / ccsol@iol.pt

APRIL 16



Quiz Night With Raffles in aid of APAA (Association for the Protection of Animals in the Algarve) at 'A Colina Ludo Almancil' at 19h00 - Max 7 in a team, we can arrange teams for those who don't have one - 20 Euros pp. Includes Quiz + 3 course 'Set Menu' (Spare ribs roasted in chilli ginger; Chicken, bacon & apple pie with creamed potatoes; Banana & chocolate cheesecake. Vegetarians please advise in advance) - To reserve a table or places, please call Shirley on 936 933 799 or email to shirillys@yahoo.com

Centro Cultural São Lourenço presents the Exhibition by Karsten Fuge 'Objects, watercolours and oil paintings' - Inauguration of the exhibition is at 19h00 - At a time where art revolves around superlatives and gigantism, Karsten Fuge continues in his dedication to the art of miniature - Centro Cultural São Lourenço - T. 2859 395 475 / F. 289 393 281 / ccsol@iol.pt / www.centroculturalasolourenco.com

UNTIL MAY 13

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ÉVORA

UNTIL MAY 23

Paula Rego the Manuel de Brito Collection - Fórum Eugénio d'Almeida - Organization: Fundação Eugénio de Almeida - 266 748 300 - www.fundacaodealmeida.pt

UNTIL JUNE 13

Exhibition 'Armas Orientais. Rituals de Poder' (Oriental Weapons. Rituals of Power) from the Collection of Jorge Caravana - Museum of Évora - Organization: Museu de Évora - 266 702 604 - http://museudevora.imcjp.pt

FARO

APRIL 17

Inauguration at 17h00 of the Art Exhibition 'A Matter of Well-being' of Oil and Acrylic on Canvas with artists participants: Richard Hoke, Carmen C., Anna Maria Pieman, Tess Aalbers, Peter Verschoor, Shirley Lowe - Hospital Particular do Algarve - Welcome Cocktails will be served on the day of inauguration - Tel: 351 282 420 402 - Fax: 351 282 420 402 - E-mail: info@hpalg.com - www.hospitalparticularalgarve.pt

APRIL 27

Promenade Concerts Cycle 'Musics of the World' by the Orquestra do Algarve - 10h30 at Teatro das Figuras (Only for the School Community) *Pedagogical Concerts Cycle* 14h30 'The School receives Orquestra do Algarve' Artistic Director Principal Conductor: Osvaldo Ferreira; Associate Composer: Alexandre Delgado - EN 125 - 289 888 110

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Club Nau is back with chilled out afternoons! - The famous Sunday afternoons with live music at Club Nau, in Praia Grande are back - Come to the beautiful beach bar for a relaxing and enjoyable Sunday afternoon, live music begins at 16h00, this week featuring Zé Manel.

LAGOA

UNTIL MAY 5

Exhibition by Siegfried Mundt - Sala Polivalente of Convento de S. José - Rua Joaquim Eugénio Júdice - Open: Mondays to Fridays from 9h00 to 12h30 and from 14h00 to 17h30; Saturdays from 14h00 to 18h00: closed on Sundays - 282 380 434 - www.conventosjose.net

UNTIL MAY 5

Exhibition by Gudrun Bartels - Manuel Gamba Exhibitions Room of Convento de S. José - Rua Joaquim Eugénio Júdice - Open: Mondays to Fridays from 9h00 to 12h30 and from 14h00 to 17h30; Saturdays from 14h00 to 18h00: closed on Sundays - 282 380 434 - www.conventosjose.net

LAGOS

UNTIL APRIL 14

Ceramics Exhibition 'Há Cães' (Dogs Exist) by Ana Rijo at Antigos Paços do Concelho gallery 1 - Gil Eanes Square - Open: Monday to Friday from 9h00 to 17h00

APRIL 19

Free concert The New Orleans Jazzband at Tivoli Hotel - 20h30 - Details 935 086 365

APRIL 17

Promenade Concerts Cycle 'Musics of the World' by the Orquestra do Algarve - 21h30 at Centro Cultural - Works by: Johannes Brahms, Mozart, Gordon Lawson; Conductor: José Eduardo Gomes; Soloist: João Cunha (Violin) - 282 770 450

UNTIL MAY 22

Exhibition 'Lagos Através do Buraco da Agulha' (Lagos through the pinhole) - The first stenoic photography exhibition of large dimensions in Portugal. This event is the result of the work carried out in Lagos by LAC - Laboratory of Creative Activities - and the Photography Centre of the Polytechnic Institute of Portalegre with the coordination of Jorge Pereira and Rui Cambráia - Centro Cultural de Lagos - Rua d Lançarote de Freitas, nº 7 - 282 770 450 - ccl@cm-lagos.pt

UNTIL MAY 22

Exhibition 'Chamas de Inspiração' (Flames of Inspiration) by Kasia Wrona - Centro Cultural de Lagos - Rua d Lançarote de Freitas, nº 7 - 282 770 450 - ccl@cm-lagos.pt

DAILY

Visit the Charity Shop in Amadena - Charity Shop in what was old supermarket on the square past 'Brody' and 'O Pogo' restaurants - LAPS - Lagos Animal Protection Society - 282 687 334

EVERY MONDAY

New Orleans Jazz free concert at Tivoli Hotel - 20h30 - Details: 935 086 365 - www.aqlvarvejazz.com

LOULÉ

APRIL 11

Promenade Concerts Cycle 'Musics of the World' by the Orquestra do Algarve - 11h00, at the Matrix Church; Free Entrance; Works by: Franz Joseph Haydn, Mozart, Johann Michael Haydn; Conductor:

Osvaldo Ferreira; Soloists: Maria Luisa França (Soprano), Liliana Bizineche (Meio-Soprano Mezzo-Soprano), Paulo Ferreira (Tenor), José Corvelo (Baritone); Choir: Coro de Câmara Lisboa Cantat; Choir Conductor: Jorge Alves

UNTIL APRIL 18

4th Loulé Gastronomy Festival 'A Spring Full of Flavours' - The festival is promoting the municipality's rich and diverse gastronomy, where combination of flavours from the sea, flavours from the mountain and flavours from the Mediterranean be offers visitors culinary delights and typical dishes that are both out of the ordinary and give pride to traditional Algarvean produce - Participating restaurants: A Moagem, Monte da Eira, O Avenida, 3 Wonders, L'Auberge, Atelier do Bacalhau, Museu do Lagar, Calypso, Bica Velha, Naturalmente e Paralelo 38

APRIL 29

Liza Silva invites you to the Gallery Studio 21 April Exhibition 'Number' by the Algarve Artist Network - The Atelier Gallery studio 21 is one of the last remaining Ateliers in Loulé where the Artist and Gallery manager Aliza Silva continues the tradition of Loulé's famous Artisan district - painting and sculpting on the premises situated within the walls of Historic Loulé's arte district, Gallery Studio 21 boasts the gorgeous original 600 year old ceiling and floor, exhibiting original fine art, sculpture and Photography - For further information please contact aliza@gallerystudio21.com

UNTIL APRIL 29

Painting Exhibition by Maria Baptista at Chá d'Arte art gallery - Largo D. Pedro I, 5-6

UNTIL MAY 8

Exhibition 'Intervalo/Nothingness' by Daniel Barroca at Convento Espírito Santo art gallery - R. Vice Almirante Cândido dos Reis - 289 400 642

MONCHIQUE

UNTIL APRIL 15

'Art arrived with the spring' Exhibition of art and handicrafts at Caldas de Monchique, Sala Dona Teresa (ex-casino) - Opening hours: 10h30 to 17h30, every day - Entrance free - Participants: António Afonso, Book 'stories of loves and anxieties'; Ana Loicht, patchwork and other textiles; Anne Massin, miniatures in oils; Clara Vicente, creative ceramics and other works; Helena Campos, water colours and bamboo; Inês Gama, abstracts in acrylic and textiles; Jean Claude Loicht, urban handicrafts in bamboo

UNTIL MAY 12

Group Exhibition 'Fernando Pessoa' with works of Anelli Kurkela, Arlindo Arez, Elsa Zorkow, Elise van der Laan, Ernesto Mies, Francisco Rousseau, Jacek Krenz, José Freire, Manuela Caneco, Maria Balmori, Marina Mourão, Michal Krenz, Peter de Jong, São Nunes and Xico - Galeria Santo António - Opening hours: Tuesdays from 12h00 to 19h00, Wednesdays to Fridays from 12h00 to 16h00 and Sundays from 12h00 to 16h00 - 282 913 130 - www.artelagave.net

PADERNE

DAILY

Art Exhibition at Galeria Corte Real - Collected works of 35 artists w/new exhibitions staged every month - Includes ceramics, hand crafted chandeliers and other items of contemporary art - Thursday to Sunday / 11am until 5pm - Signposted from Ferreiras, Boliqueime & Pademe - 918 980 199 / 912 737 762

PORTIMÃO

APRIL 22



New Orleans Jazz at Casa Inglesa - 20h30 - Details 935 086 365

THURSDAYS

Weight Wise, slimming support group, meets at Restaurante As Aves, Ladeira do Vau, near Portimão on Thursdays at 10h30 - Please call 939 536 347 or e-mail wendyweightwise@yahoo.com

SERPA

UNTIL JULY 31

Exhibition 'Relógios mecânicos de 1910 a 1970' (Mechanical Clocks from 1910 to 1970) - Museu do Relógio (Clock Museum) - Organization: Museu do Relógio - 284 543 194 - www.museudorelogio.com

SILVES

APRIL 16

Charity concert The Dixie Kings at Silves Cine-Theatre Club - 20h30 - Details 935 086 365

SINES

UNTIL JUNE 25

'O seio de Tétis' Exhibition of the Sines Museum archaeological collections - Sines Museum - Organization: Museu de Sines - 269 632 237 - www.sines.pt

UNTIL DECEMBER 30

Exhibition 'O Séc. XX em Sines: uma geografia da memória' (The 20th Century in Sines: a memory geography) - Sines Museum de Sines - Organization: Museu de Sines - 269 632 237 - www.sines.pt

S. BRÁS DE ALPORTEL

UNTIL MAY 12



Exhibition 'Lightbox' by Gabriel Colaco at Zerm Arte - Armazéns de Arte - Open: Daily except Thursday from 13h00 to 22h00 and Friday and Saturday from 13h00 to 1h00

TAVIRA

APRIL 16

Promenade Concerts Cycle 'Musics of the World' by the Orquestra do Algarve - 21h30 at Carmo Church - 289 860 890

APRIL 17

Potato Bake + Quiz - 19h00 - St. Estêvão - In aid of the Canil São Francisco, Loulé - Organised by the Távira Fund Raisers - To book contact Cynthia on 281 324 795 or email diane@sdeals.com - Our recent bazaar raised €450.27 - Many thanks to our loyal supporters.

VILAMOURA

TUESDAYS

Weight Wise, slimming support group, meets at Browns Sports & Leisure Club at 10h30 - Please call 939 536 347 or wendyweightwise@yahoo.com

NORTH

DAILY



Serralves Foundation: Visits to the exhibitions - Sat: 17h-20h; Sun: 12h-13h - to the architectonic spaces (museum & casa de serralves) Sun: 15h-16h - Visits to the park; Sun: 11h-12h - Visits are free on the purchase of an entrance ticket to the museum - Location: Rua D. João de Castro, 210 - T. 226 156 584 - www.serralves.pt

GUIMARÃES

APRIL 17

Concert by The Soaked Lamb - Café Concerto de Centro Cultural Vila Flor - 24h00 - Av. D. Afonso Henriques, 701 - 253 424 700 - www.ccvf.pt

CENTRE

respect. This exhibition presents about three dozen works and beyond the animals quoted above, are also represented the cheetah, the duck, the hyena, rhinoceros, wild boar, the panda, the gnu, lemur, lizard and the bear - This exhibition will be open to the public every day from 15h00 to 24h00 - Under the legislation that regulates the operation of casinos, it is only permitted access to individuals over 18 years - Praça José Teodoro dos Santos - 214 667 700 - Info.estoril@estoril-sol.com - www.casino-estoril.pt

APRIL 24 & 25

Promenade Concerts Cycle 'Musics of the World' by the Orquestra do Algarve - 24h April: 22h00 at Centro Cultural de Belém (Small Auditorium) 'Dias da Música em Belém' (Music Days in Belém) - Works by: Leonid Chizhik - Conductor: Osvaldo Ferreira - Soloist: Leonid Chizhik (Piano) - 25th April: 19h00 at Centro Cultural de Belém (Grand Auditorium) 'Dias da Música em Belém' (Music Days in Belém) - Works by: Sérgio Azevedo, Manuel de Falla; Conductor: Osvaldo Ferreira; Soloist: António Rosado (Piano) - Tel: 707 303 000

Lisbon Concerts

(Tickets: See details bottom page)

Until April 17 - Mitch Sebastian's 'The Opera Show' - Oceanos Auditorium of Casino Lisboa - April 7 - Tokio Hotel - Welcome to Humanoid City Tour - Atlantic Pavilion's Sala Atlântico - 19h30

- May 21 to May

30 - Rock in

Rio -

Performing

are artists like

Shakira, Elton

John, Muse,

Miley Cyrus,

Amy MacDonald,



DZRT- May 30 - Black Eyed Peas in concert with Cheryl Cole opening the concert - Estádio Nacional (National Stadium)

Events may be cancelled, delayed or fail to live up to their billing. Send us your events to copy@the-news.net by Tuesday before publication.

TICKETS: Most tickets are available at FNAC and Worten outlets across the country, ATM machines, Abreu agencies, El Corte Inglés, Casa Viola, Ticketline or at the event itself on the night.

Websites: www.pavilhaoatlantico.pt / www.ticketline.pt / www.blueticket.pt / Phone numbers: Ticketline 707 234 234 / 707 780 000

ALGARVE

SBC
FORUM ALGARVE
TEL: 289 887 212
8 APR-14 APR

1
Law Abiding Citizen
Gerard Butler, Jamie Foxx
13.55-16.25-18.55-21.20 (23.45 Fri & Sat)

The Princess and the Frog
Animation PV
(10.20 Sat & Sun)

2
The Crazies
Timothy Olyphant, Radha Mitchell
15.05-17.20-22.10 (00.25 Fri & Sat)
It's Complicated
Meryl Streep, Steve Martin
19.35

The Spy Next Door
Jackie Chan, George Lopez
(10.30 Sat & Sun)

3
From Paris With Love
John Travolta, Jonathan Rhys Meyers
12.50-15.00-17.10-19.20-21.40 (00.10 Fri & Sat)

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs
Animation PV
(10.10-12.10 Sat & Sun)

4
How to Train Your Dragon
Animation PV
(10.50 Sat & Sun) 13.05-15.20-17.35-19.50

Solomon Kane
James Purefoy, Jason Flemyng
22.05 (00.30 Fri & Sat)

5
Green Zone
Matt Damon, Greg Kinnear
(11.30 Sat & Sun) 14.00-16.30-19.00-21.30 (00.00 Fri & Sat)

6
Date Night
Steve Carell, Tina Fey
(11.25 Sat & Sun) 13.30-15.35-17.40-19.45-21.50 (23.55 Fri & Sat)

7
The Blind Side
Sandra Bullock, Quinton Aaron
15.30-18.15-21.00 (23.50 Fri & Sat)
Alice in Wonderland
Johnny Depp, Mia Wasikowska
(10.40 Sat & Sun) 13.05

8
Remember Me
Robert Pattinson, Emilie de Ravin
13.35-18.35

Dear John
Channing Tatum, Amanda Seyfried
16.05-21.05 (23.35 Fri & Sat)

9
Everybody's Fine
Robert De Niro, Drew Barrymore
14.35-19.30

The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus
Heath Ledger, Johnny Depp
(10.15 Sat & Sun) 16.50-21.45 (00.25 Fri & Sat)

CASTELLO LOPES CINEMAS
ALGARVESHOPPING
TEL: 707 220 220
8 APR-14 APR

1
Law Abiding Citizen
Gerard Butler, Jamie Foxx
13.20-15.50-18.30-21.25 (23.45 Thu-Sat)

2
How to Train Your Dragon 3D
Animation PV
13.00-15.05-17.15-19.25

Alice in Wonderland 3D
Johnny Depp, Mia Wasikowska
21.40 (00.10 Thu-Sat)

3
Everybody's Fine
Robert De Niro, Drew Barrymore
13.05

Edge of Darkness
Mel Gibson, Ray Winstone
15.40-18.15-21.00 (23.30 Thu-Sat)

4
The Blind Side
Sandra Bullock, Quinton Aaron
12.45-15.30-18.20-21.15 (23.55 Thu-Sat)

5
Solomon Kane
James Purefoy, Jason Flemyng
13.15-16.00-18.25

The Crazies
Timothy Olyphant, Radha Mitchell
21.10 (23.50 Thu-Sat)

6
From Paris With Love
John Travolta, Jonathan Rhys Meyers
13.10-15.15-17.20-19.30-21.50 (00.15 Thu-Sat)

7
Green Zone
Matt Damon, Greg Kinnear
13.30-16.05-18.40-21.30 (00.05 Thu-Sat)

8
Date Night
Steve Carell, Tina Fey
12.50-15.00-17.10-19.20-21.45 (00.00 Thu-Sat)

9
Dear John
Channing Tatum, Amanda Seyfried
13.40-16.15-18.45-21.20 (23.40 Thu-Sat)

CASTELLO LOPES CINEMAS
PORTIMÃO
TEL: 707 220 220
8 APR-14 APR

1
Date Night
Steve Carell, Tina Fey
13.20-15.20-17.30-19.35-21.40 (00.10 Thu-Sat)

2
Law Abiding Citizen
Gerard Butler, Jamie Foxx
13.30-16.00-18.25-22.00 (0.20 Thu-Sat)

3
Alice in Wonderland
Johnny Depp, Mia Wasikowska
13.40-16.10-18.35-21.50 (0.15 Thu-Sat)

4
Edge of Darkness
Mel Gibson, Ray Winstone
13.50-16.20-18.45-21.10 (23.40 Thu-Sat)

5
How to Train Your Dragon
Animation PV
13.00-15.00-17.00-19.15

It's Complicated
Meryl Streep, Steve Martin
21.20 (23.50 Thu-Sat)

6
From Paris With Love
John Travolta, Jonathan Rhys Meyers
13.10-15.10-17.20-19.25-21.30 (00.00 Thu-Sat)

OV = Original Version
PV = Portuguese Version



Castello Lopes
Cinemas

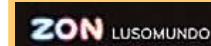
Tel: 707 220 220

www.castellolopescinemas.com



UCI Cinemas

Tel: 707 23 22 21
www.uciportugal.pt



Zon Lusomundo
Cinemas

Tel: 707 24 63 62
www.zonlusomundo.pt

Film Classification

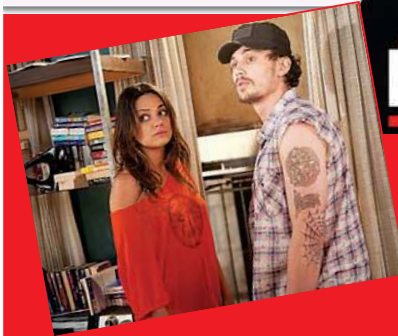
Date Night - M/12
Green Zone - M/12
From Paris With Love - M/12
The Crazies - M/12
Law Abiding Citizen - M/16
How to Train Your Dragon - M/6
The Blind Side - M/12
Dear John - M/12
Everybody's Fine - M/12
Millennium 2: The Girl Who Played with Fire - M/16
Remember Me - M/12
Alice in Wonderland - M/6

M/4 - Four years and over
M/6 - Six years and over
M/12 - 12 years and over
M/16 - 16 years and over
M/18 - 18 years and over

Title: Date Night
Genre: Action | Comedy | Romance
Stars: Steve Carell, Tina Fey, Mark Wahlberg, Taraji P. Henson

Synopsis: Claire and Phil Foster are a typical suburban couple whose lives, including their date nights of dinner and a movie, have become routine.

To reignite the marital spark, they visit a trendy Manhattan bistro, where a case of mistaken identity hurls them through the city at high speeds, into non-stop adventure. Remembering what made them so special together, Phil and Claire take on a pair of corrupt cops, a top-level mobster - and a crazed cabbie - as their date becomes a night they'll never forget.



DATE NIGHT



Title: Green Zone
Genre: Action | Drama | Thriller | War
Stars: Matt Damon, Greg Kinnear, Brendan Gleeson, Jason Isaacs

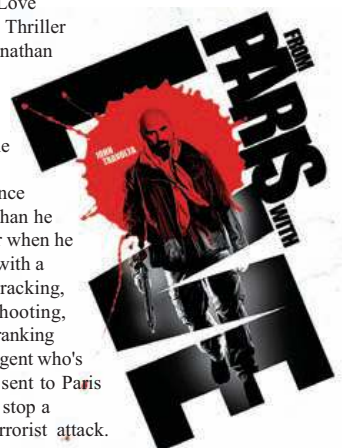
Director: Paul Greengrass
Synopsis: It is 2003, and US Army Chief Warrant Officer Roy Miller and his team of Army inspectors have been dispatched to find weapons of mass destruction believed to be stockpiled in the Iraqi desert. Rocketing from one booby-trapped and treacherous site to the next, the men search for deadly chemical agents but instead stumble upon an elaborate cover-up that subverts the purpose of their mission.



Title: From Paris With Love
Genre: Action | Crime | Thriller
Stars: John Travolta, Jonathan Rhys Meyers

Synopsis: A low-ranking intelligence operative working in the office of the U.S.

Ambassador in France takes on more than he bargained for when he partners with a wisecracking, fast-shooting, high-ranking U.S. agent who's been sent to Paris to stop a terrorist attack.



FRIDAY 16/04/10

[illegible]

01:15 Home and Away.	06:30 TV Morning News.	01:00 Weather.	06:30 TV News and Weather.
02:15 Home and Away.	06:45 GATV.	01:15 Weather.	06:45 TV News and Weather.
03:15 I Don Brain's Best	07:00 The Jeremy Kyle Show.	02:00 60 Minute Makeover.	07:00 Emeralds.
04:15 Home and Away.	10:30 This Morning.	03:00 Daily Cooks Challenge.	07:05 The 100th Anniversary Special.
05:05 Five News with Lyle	12:30 Loose Women.	03:59 London's Real Deal.	08:00 Dickson's Real Deal.
06:05 TV News.	01:30 ITV News.	04:00 Dickson's Real Deal.	08:30 Coronation Street.
07:05 TV News.	01:45 Weather.	06:00 London Tonight.	09:00 Marco's Kitchen.
08:05 Five News with Lyle	01:55 Weather.	06:30 TV News and Weather.	09:05 Home and Away.
09:05 Five News with Lyle	02:00 60 Minute Makeover.	07:00 Emeralds.	09:10 The 100th Anniversary Special.
10:05 Home and Away.	03:00 Daily Cooks Challenge.	07:05 The 100th Anniversary Special.	10:05 The 100th Anniversary Special.
11:05 Highland Emergency.	03:59 London's Real Deal.	08:00 Dickson's Real Deal.	10:15 The 100th Anniversary Special.
12:05 Five News Update.	04:00 Dickson's Real Deal.	08:30 Coronation Street.	10:25 The 100th Anniversary Special.
13:05 Five News Update.	06:00 London Tonight.	09:00 Marco's Kitchen.	10:35 Home and Away.
14:05 Five News Update.	06:30 TV News and Weather.	09:05 Home and Away.	10:45 Home and Away.
15:05 Five News Update.	07:00 Emeralds.	09:10 The 100th Anniversary Special.	11:05 Home and Away.
16:05 Five News Update.	07:05 The 100th Anniversary Special.	09:15 The 100th Anniversary Special.	11:15 Home and Away.
17:05 Five News Update.	08:00 Dickson's Real Deal.	09:25 The 100th Anniversary Special.	11:25 Home and Away.
18:05 Five News Update.	08:30 Coronation Street.	09:35 The 100th Anniversary Special.	11:35 Home and Away.
19:05 Five News Update.	09:00 Marco's Kitchen.	09:45 The 100th Anniversary Special.	11:45 Home and Away.
20:05 Five News Update.	09:05 Home and Away.	09:55 The 100th Anniversary Special.	11:55 Home and Away.
21:05 Five News Update.	09:10 The 100th Anniversary Special.	10:05 The 100th Anniversary Special.	12:05 Home and Away.
22:05 Five News Update.	09:15 The 100th Anniversary Special.	10:15 The 100th Anniversary Special.	12:15 Home and Away.
23:05 Five News Update.	09:25 The 100th Anniversary Special.	10:25 The 100th Anniversary Special.	12:25 Home and Away.
24:05 Five News Update.	09:35 The 100th Anniversary Special.	10:35 The 100th Anniversary Special.	12:35 Home and Away.
25:05 Five News Update.	09:45 The 100th Anniversary Special.	10:45 The 100th Anniversary Special.	12:45 Home and Away.
26:05 Five News Update.	09:55 The 100th Anniversary Special.	10:55 The 100th Anniversary Special.	12:55 Home and Away.
27:05 Five News Update.	10:05 The 100th Anniversary Special.	11:05 The 100th Anniversary Special.	13:05 Home and Away.
28:05 Five News Update.	10:15 The 100th Anniversary Special.	11:15 The 100th Anniversary Special.	13:15 Home and Away.
29:05 Five News Update.	10:25 The 100th Anniversary Special.	11:25 The 100th Anniversary Special.	13:25 Home and Away.
30:05 Five News Update.	10:35 The 100th Anniversary Special.	11:35 The 100th Anniversary Special.	13:35 Home and Away.
31:05 Five News Update.	10:45 The 100th Anniversary Special.	11:45 The 100th Anniversary Special.	13:45 Home and Away.
32:05 Five News Update.	10:55 The 100th Anniversary Special.	11:55 The 100th Anniversary Special.	13:55 Home and Away.
33:05 Five News Update.	11:05 The 100th Anniversary Special.	12:05 The 100th Anniversary Special.	14:05 Home and Away.
34:05 Five News Update.	11:15 The 100th Anniversary Special.	12:15 The 100th Anniversary Special.	14:15 Home and Away.
35:05 Five News Update.	11:25 The 100th Anniversary Special.	12:25 The 100th Anniversary Special.	14:25 Home and Away.
36:05 Five News Update.	11:35 The 100th Anniversary Special.	12:35 The 100th Anniversary Special.	14:35 Home and Away.
37:05 Five News Update.	11:45 The 100th Anniversary Special.	12:45 The 100th Anniversary Special.	14:45 Home and Away.
38:05 Five News Update.	11:55 The 100th Anniversary Special.	12:55 The 100th Anniversary Special.	14:55 Home and Away.
39:05 Five News Update.	12:05 The 100th Anniversary Special.	13:05 The 100th Anniversary Special.	15:05 Home and Away.
40:05 Five News Update.	12:15 The 100th Anniversary Special.	13:15 The 100th Anniversary Special.	15:15 Home and Away.
41:05 Five News Update.	12:25 The 100th Anniversary Special.	13:25 The 100th Anniversary Special.	15:25 Home and Away.
42:05 Five News Update.	12:35 The 100th Anniversary Special.	13:35 The 100th Anniversary Special.	15:35 Home and Away.
43:05 Five News Update.	12:45 The 100th Anniversary Special.	13:45 The 100th Anniversary Special.	15:45 Home and Away.
44:05 Five News Update.	12:55 The 100th Anniversary Special.	13:55 The 100th Anniversary Special.	15:55 Home and Away.
45:05 Five News Update.	13:05 The 100th Anniversary Special.	14:05 The 100th Anniversary Special.	16:05 Home and Away.
46:05 Five News Update.	13:15 The 100th Anniversary Special.	14:15 The 100th Anniversary Special.	16:15 Home and Away.
47:05 Five News Update.	13:25 The 100th Anniversary Special.	14:25 The 100th Anniversary Special.	16:25 Home and Away.
48:05 Five News Update.	13:35 The 100th Anniversary Special.	14:35 The 100th Anniversary Special.	16:35 Home and Away.
49:05 Five News Update.	13:45 The 100th Anniversary Special.	14:45 The 100th Anniversary Special.	16:45 Home and Away.
50:05 Five News Update.	13:55 The 100th Anniversary Special.	14:55 The 100th Anniversary Special.	16:55 Home and Away.
51:05 Five News Update.	14:05 The 100th Anniversary Special.	15:05 The 100th Anniversary Special.	17:05 Home and Away.
52:05 Five News Update.	14:15 The 100th Anniversary Special.	15:15 The 100th Anniversary Special.	17:15 Home and Away.
53:05 Five News Update.	14:25 The 100th Anniversary Special.	15:25 The 100th Anniversary Special.	17:25 Home and Away.
54:05 Five News Update.	14:35 The 100th Anniversary Special.	15:35 The 100th Anniversary Special.	17:35 Home and Away.
55:05 Five News Update.	14:45 The 100th Anniversary Special.	15:45 The 100th Anniversary Special.	17:45 Home and Away.
56:05 Five News Update.	14:55 The 100th Anniversary Special.	15:55 The 100th Anniversary Special.	17:55 Home and Away.
57:05 Five News Update.	15:05 The 100th Anniversary Special.	16:05 The 100th Anniversary Special.	18:05 Home and Away.
58:05 Five News Update.	15:15 The 100th Anniversary Special.	16:15 The 100th Anniversary Special.	18:15 Home and Away.
59:05 Five News Update.	15:25 The 100th Anniversary Special.	16:25 The 100th Anniversary Special.	18:25 Home and Away.
60:05 Five News Update.	15:35 The 100th Anniversary Special.	16:35 The 100th Anniversary Special.	18:35 Home and Away.
61:05 Five News Update.	15:45 The 100th Anniversary Special.	16:45 The 100th Anniversary Special.	18:45 Home and Away.
62:05 Five News Update.	15:55 The 100th Anniversary Special.	16:55 The 100th Anniversary Special.	18:55 Home and Away.
63:05 Five News Update.	16:05 The 100th Anniversary Special.	17:05 The 100th Anniversary Special.	19:05 Home and Away.
64:05 Five News Update.	16:15 The 100th Anniversary Special.	17:15 The 100th Anniversary Special.	19:15 Home and Away.
65:05 Five News Update.	16:25 The 100th Anniversary Special.	17:25 The 100th Anniversary Special.	19:25 Home and Away.
66:05 Five News Update.	16:35 The 100th Anniversary Special.	17:35 The 100th Anniversary Special.	19:35 Home and Away.
67:05 Five News Update.	16:45 The 100th Anniversary Special.	17:45 The 100th Anniversary Special.	19:45 Home and Away.
68:05 Five News Update.	16:55 The 100th Anniversary Special.	17:55 The 100th Anniversary Special.	19:55 Home and Away.
69:05 Five News Update.	17:05 The 100th Anniversary Special.	18:05 The 100th Anniversary Special.	20:05 Home and Away.
70:05 Five News Update.	17:15 The 100th Anniversary Special.	18:15 The 100th Anniversary Special.	20:15 Home and Away.
71:05 Five News Update.	17:25 The 100th Anniversary Special.	18:25 The 100th Anniversary Special.	20:25 Home and Away.
72:05 Five News Update.	17:35 The 100th Anniversary Special.	18:35 The 100th Anniversary Special.	20:35 Home and Away.
73:05 Five News Update.	17:45 The 100th Anniversary Special.	18:45 The 100th Anniversary Special.	20:45 Home and Away.
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Last week's solution:

PROPERTY

A weekly guide to the latest and the best properties on the market in Portugal • The Portugal News • 10 Apr 2010

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

Nestling in the countryside



This beautiful new 4 bedroom villa is situated in the charming countryside near the Odelouca river valley, between Silves and Portimao. Standing in 2.7 hectares of land, it is set in an elevated position, offering uninterrupted panoramic views of the surrounding hills.

The single level property comprises of a spacious sitting room with fireplace and double patio doors opening out on two sides to the terrace; an archway leads to an open plan dining area and onto a fully equipped modern kitchen. There are 4 double bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, one with a large tiled walk in shower and the other with bath. The master bedroom has two adjoining rooms, offering the space to fit a

third, en-suite bathroom plus either a huge walk-in wardrobe or dressing room. There is also a utility room with access out to the rear of the property.

This property has been newly built to a very high standard with beamed ceilings, fully double glazed windows & doors and tiled floors throughout. There is an annexe offering ample space to create an office, garage, workshop or to simply use as storage



space. The property also benefits from a private borehole.

Covered in an abundance of wild flowers, as well as olive trees, orange trees and more, the land and surrounding countryside offer endless opportunities for de-

lightful walks.

This peaceful retreat offers all the tranquility and beauty of the countryside and yet is within ten minutes drive of both the historic city of Silves and the bustling city of Portimão. All amenities are

within easy reach including shopping, supermarkets, cafes, restaurants, golf and beaches.

Ideally located, about 35 minutes drive from Faro airport with easy access from the motorway, this property would make an ideal

permanent residence or lovely rental property.

Priced at €345,000, this property is a great investment opportunity. For more information, please call +351 919 552 001 or +351 963 783 505.



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Vilamoura

Centrally located, studio apartment composed of bathroom, kitchen, lounge and terrace. Equipped. Air conditioning.

Ref. A1182

Price: € 99,000



Vilamoura

Spacious apartment composed of 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, lounge with dining area, equipped kitchen, laundry and terraces. Parking space in the basement. Communal swimming pool and garden. Sea view. Construction area of approx. 153 sq.m.

Ref. A1247

Price: € 280,000



Vilamoura

Attached villa, renovated, composed of 3 bedrooms (2 en suite), 3 bathrooms, storage area, kitchen, hallway, laundry room, lounge, dining room, 2 terraces & roof terrace. Central heating & double glazed windows. Parking area. Communal sw. pool & garden. Furnished. Construction area approx. 122 sq. m.

Ref. V12596

Price: € 325,000



Goldra

Country villa, composed of 3 bedrooms (2 en suite), 3 bathrooms, storages, equipped kitchen, 3 hallways, laundry, lounge with fireplace and 4 terraces. Garden and heated sw. pool. Garage. Furniture negotiable.

Ref. V12474

Price: € 450,000



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Albufeira - Quinta da Balaia

Excellent 3 bedroom Villa situated in Quinta da Balaia - Albufeira. This Villa has a wide garden with a big swimming pool, BBQ & parking place for 2 cars, equipped with Air Conditioning & has a big sunny terrace overlooking the gardens & sea. Very good location, excellent price.

Ref. 122261002-402

Price: € 445,000



Vale Parra

Excellent town house with very good areas. Situated in Condominium da Parra, only 1,32 Miles from Galé beach. On the ground floor we have the entrance hall, kitchen, living room and storage room. On the 1st floor, 3 bedrooms 1 en suite, 1 bath & 2 balconies. A sunny backyard w/BBQ & common garden w/large sw. pool.

Ref. 122261002-416

Price: € 245,000



Olhos d'Água

Excellent 2 bedroom apartment with fireplace. This apartment is situated in a very quiet area, Quinta do Paiva. Private condominium with a very big swimming pool and beautiful views over the country side

Ref. 122261002-475

Price: € 149,000



Balaia / Albufeira

Private condominium with sea view, high quality construction. Living room 44 sqm, fully equipped kitchen, 3 and 4 Bedrooms. Terrace w/ barbecue, swimming pool. Private garage.

Prices from: € 275,000

ID 122261079-4

More information tel 926488487

Email acpereira@remax.pt



Paderne / Albufeira

Old house 4Km from Paderne & 9Km from Albufeira Town. Very quiet place, with some houses in the neighborhood. Nice views, this ruin has 80sqm of area, but with permission to build a house with 300sqm. It is sold with land of 8.000sqm.

Price € 169 000 ID 122261079-1

More information tel 926488487

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Vilamoura

Very nice studio apartment full equipped. Very well located in high quality condominium with swimming pool, garden and play ground. Very good finishings. Good investment.

Ref.: 2434 Promotion € 94.500



Vilamoura

3 Bed detached Villa with swimming pool, garden & bbq. Very good location, next to the wonderful Old Village Resort. Good rental income.

Ref.: 2960

€ 350,000



Vilamoura

1 Bed apartment with stunning views, and only 2 minutes walking to the Marina and the beach. Refurbished and furnished. Good deal.

Ref.: 2907

€ 89,000

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Outstanding opportunity to buy a dream rural property...

...near village of Alte (Loulé).

Professionally renovated to a high standard the detached villa sits on plot of 310m² and has 3 double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes. Two fully equipped bathrooms and excellently finished modern kitchen. Under floor heating throughout and log burner in main sitting room. **Price reduced** to €160,000 or long term rental

- Bonus

1 minute drive away is a dream 1 hectare plot.

The land can accommodate several wooden country cottages, plus caravans & tents.

A large fishing lake on the plot offers revenue for fishing enthusiasts. Also bird wildlife is well established in this area and many companies' offers routes to monitor the wildlife. The land is able to create a self sufficient life style.

Price reduced on this plot and is now offered at - €50,000.



Contact: 919 383 852 or 917 227 087 should interest be sought on both properties a negotiation is available.



Miguel Tosen Garcia
tel +351 967 765 832
Mtgarcia@remax.pt



Working bar completely equipped, with 73 sqm. Near Praia da Rocha main street with 50 sits (30 inn and 20 in the terrace). €210.000

Beautiful 5 Bed Villa situated in Algarve close to Alvor property has a private pool and tennis court that are set in over 5000 sqm. of landscape gardens. five double bedrooms (3 en suite). €550.000



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VILAMOURA
Ref. A102646
Two bedroom apartment. Complex w/ two pools & kids playing area. Close to all amenities. 100 sq.m. 15 mins walk to the Marina. Pre installed for a/c & central vacuum. Large terrace w/ barbecue area. Private parking space. Great letting potential.

Price: € 140.000



VILAMOURA
Ref. MG92566
Three bedroom semi detached villa. 180 sq.m. Residential area near several golf courses. Fitted kitchen. Large living/dining room. A/c. Garage for 2/3 cars. Recently refurbished. Private garden w/ pool and BBQ area. South facing with lovely open views.

Price: € 475.000



VILAMOURA - FALÉSIA BEACH
Ref. A102690
2+1 bedroom apartment. Complex w/ large green area & communal pool. 110 sq.m. 10 mins walk to Marina & beach. Large lounge w/ wood burning stove. A/c. Furnished & equipped. Large West facing terrace overlooking the pool and with panoramic views.

Price: € 235.000



VILAMOURA
Ref. MG92581
Four bedroom villa on a cul-de-sac. 250 sq.m. 1.098 sq.m. plot. Lovely finishes. 4 suites. Furnished & equipped. A/c. Central vacuum. Pre-installed for alarm. Large basement. Lovely garden w/ pool & barbecue area. Sun terrace with panoramic view.

Price: € 700.000

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Santa Bárbara de Nexe

- Beautiful character villa
- Lovely views to coast
- 4 bedrooms 4 bathrooms
- Under floor c/heating
- Pool, terraces, garden
- Villa 250m² plot 960m²

Ref. V998
Price Reduced: € 640.000



Almancil

- Beautiful villa built 1997
- Country & small sea view
- 4 bedrooms 5 bathrooms
- Gas central heating
- Pool 12m x 6m, garden
- Villa 257m² plot 2.550m²

Ref. V1106 - Quick Sale
Price Reduced: € 499.000



Tavira

- Beautiful spacious villa
- Ideal for B&B or rentals
- 5 bedrooms 5 bathrooms
- Gas c/heating, pool 12x6
- Garage/annex, garden
- Villa 265m² plot 10.480m²

Ref. V1311
Price: € 745.000



São Brás de Alportel

- New luxury modern villa
- Beautiful views to coast
- 4 bedrooms 4 bathrooms
- Air co, under floor heating
- Heated infinity pool
- Villa 540m² plot 12.050m²

Ref. V1317
Price: € 1.700.000



São Brás de Alportel

- Beautiful new villa
- Lovely country views
- 3 bedrooms 3 bathrooms
- Air co, under floor heating
- Pool 10m x 5m, garage
- Villa 200m², garden, BBQ

Ref. V1318
Price: € 600.000

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Tavira: 281 320 281
Vilamoura: 289 301 294



Tavira

New 5 bedroom villa w/ large pool & small lake enjoying sea views & privacy on landscaped plot of 15.560 m2. Living area of 307 m2 & basement of 192 m2. High quality construction and specifications. Easy access.

Ref: LHV-937 Price: € 1.200.000



Estoi

Unique, modern, split-level villa with pool & guesthouse offering privacy & breathtaking views towards the coast. Covered area: 360 m2, plot: 2140 m2. enjoying Good quality construction.

Ref: LHV-1063 Price: € 1.200.000



Santa Catarina

Lovely 4-bedroom quinta (265 m2) with many typical Portuguese features. Swimming pool & beautiful gardens. Plot of 9840 m2. Spacious double-height living area. Easy road access. Good value for money.

Ref: LHV-866 Price: € 590.000
(Reduced from € 799.000)



Tavira

Luxurious 4 bedroom villa (430 m2 covered area) with swimming pool on preferred location in Tavira. Large living room with adjacent dining area, Italian design kitchen, high quality building materials and finishing. Plot of 1074 m2 enjoying country views.

Ref: LHV-901 Price: € 749.000



Near São Brás

Offers invited! Outstanding 3-bedroom villa (177 m2) with pool & garage (41 m2) set on a 2500 m2 plot offering far-reaching views. Tastefully chosen materials, under floor heating, air-conditioning. Worth a viewing.

Ref: LHV-1066 Price: € 465.000

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Huge detached 5 bedroom villa (all bedrooms in suite) with huge pool in São Martinho do Porto. Price 349.000 Euros

Beautiful Rustic detached home beside the bay of São Martinho do Porto. Price 135.000 Euros

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Glorious greenhouses



A heated greenhouse will give you a much bigger range of plants to grow, says TV gardener, Alan Titchmarsh.



If you live in the north of Portugal or in the Serra de Estrela region and want to sow seeds earlier, have better crops of tomatoes and cucumbers, and tender plants during the cooler months, it may be a good idea to buy a greenhouse.

TV gardening guru Alan Titchmarsh loves pottering in his greenhouse, and advises green-fingered enthusiasts to think carefully about their needs before they buy.

"Make it twice as big as you think you need, because however big a greenhouse you get you will fill it to overflowing. Buy the largest you can possibly afford and fit in," he says.

"My greenhouse is packed. I keep thinking I'll have to have a purge in spring and throw a lot out so I can do something new but it's difficult to find the heart to throw things away which are growing well."

Don't forget to allow for hidden costs of a greenhouse, he advises. Installing electricity and water will make a dent in your budget, along with laying a path

leading to the greenhouse. Things such as staging, propagators, watering systems and automatic vent openers, plus blinds, heaters and insulation will also rack up the costs.

Of course, not all of us need a greenhouse. If you only want a few bedding plants you may be better off with a heated propagator on a windowsill indoors and a few cold frames.

A heated greenhouse will give you a much bigger range of plants to grow, he explains. "Try to get your heating sorted, preferably make it electric heating which is thermostatically controlled so you can save money on it. Even being able to keep the frost out will tremendously widen the range of plants you can grow in there."

Fan heaters move the air

around and will heat a larger area efficiently, while tubular heaters are suitable for smaller spaces. You can also buy heated propagators and soil-warming cables if you only want to heat the seeds you are sowing.

Invest in a maximum/minimum thermometer and put it where it will be easily read, but out of direct sun, which will interfere with the reading.

"An unheated greenhouse limits your season from March to October, although you can put hardy shrubs, flowering currants and camellias in there in pots if it's unheated, it will bring them on earlier," says Alan.

The greenhouse should be placed in full sun, because if it's shady the plants tend to become leggy. Place it in the most open site you can, keeping it around

10m from any big trees, if you can. This is because of the shade they may cast and because the falling leaves and twigs will block gutters and increase the frequency with which you have to clean the glass.

"You can potter in the greenhouse all year round but there will come that time of winter from December to February when it's quieter, although my own greenhouse has been full of scented leaf pelargoniums right the way through. We've got marguerites flowering in there and little white jasmine."

If you want to grow ornamentals in your greenhouse, work out what temperature you can keep the greenhouse at and grow plants that suit that environment, rather than trying to match the heat to the needs of a variety of plants.

To keep an unheated greenhouse looking good, try to grow a succession of flowers, which will mean encouraging some plants to bloom a bit earlier than normal. Scented shrubs are great early flowerers. The hardy *Daphne odora Aureomarginata*, for example, produces pale purple-pink fragrant flowers naturally early in the year and even earlier if it's under cover. Other shrubs which look great in the greenhouse include *mimosa* (*Acacia dealbata*) and *Buddleia asiatica*.

Investing in a greenhouse will allow you to experiment with seeds, grow more fruit and veg, take cuttings and widen the range of plants you grow. And it may look pretty as well.

Alan Titchmarsh *How To Garden* series: *Greenhouse Gardening*, is published by BBC Books, priced £6.99/€7.95.

Hannah Stephenson

Book your stand now (just a few left) at The International Algarve Fair 5th & 6th June



Top tip ...

Hand-pollinating fruit

If you are growing fruit such as peaches and nectarines, which flower early in the year before you can risk opening the greenhouse to allow the bees in, you may have to hand-pollinate flowers to help them along. The traditional Victorian tool for this job was a rabbit's tail but most gardeners now use a small, soft paintbrush to brush the stamens of each flower gently. As you move between flowers you will automatically transfer pollen and ensure pollination. The process should be carried out each day throughout the flowering season. Apricots and melons grown in greenhouses also benefit from hand pollinating.

Plant of the week

Heather (Erica)

Early-flowering, low-growing evergreen heathers in shades of white and deep pink are a joy to behold at this time of year, creating a carpet of colour in rock gardens or even their own beds. Try *E. carnea* Springwood White, a vigorous, trailing variety which produces a profusion of white flowers above white green foliage. Other good varieties include Foxhollow which has purple flowers and bronze-yellow foliage, Myretoun Ruby, with its pink to red flowers and Ruby Glow, with its deep green leaves and pink flowers. These low-growing types prefer full sun in acid soil. Trim them after flowering to keep them in check but don't cut in to old wood or they may not recover.



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Giants Windows boasts a wide range of flexible systems, catering for nearly any application. As the SF25 and SF 45 have entirely no vertical frames, you will have wonderful panoramic views of the out-

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Depending on the model of the system, they can be supplied in aluminium or wood.

Also available are windows and doors in PVC, aluminium and wood, fly-screens, roller-shutters, aluminium shutters, any kind of security doors, skylights, and a repair service.

Their showroom is located at Rua de Faro, nº 14, 8005-531, in Santa Bárbara de Nexe. Opening times: Monday-Friday 09h00-13h00, 15h00-18h00, they are closed on weekends.

PT Patio-Outdoor Innovation



Having been established for four years, PT Patio are the company to call if you are looking to adorn any outside space of your home, providing a wide range of high quality teak, hardwood and rattan furniture plus accessories for gardens, patios or terraces.

Sourcing their products from all over the world, including the Far East, PT Patio offer extremely competitive prices as they cut out the middleman when importing products and speak directly to the manufacturers. Furthermore, PT Patio are currently carrying out a clearance campaign, with greatly reduced prices on all of their products, an opportunity not to be missed.

The showroom, directly opposite the Apolónia Supermarket in Almancil, displays various examples of furniture packages for homes, with the Real Rattan range being one of

the favourites among customers. Get to the showroom while stocks last.

PT Patio's main focus is good quality price relation on their products, recognizing that most customers don't like to spend a fortune on their outdoor furniture but prefer to find a midrange alternative.

Sun loungers, rocking loungers, dining sets, sofas, chairs, tables, shades, and many more accessories are available at the showroom, with lots more stock safely stored in a warehouse nearby.

The price on the tag is the final bill for any customer, as PT Patio provides free delivery across the whole Algarve and prices for sofas and chairs include the pillows.

With the hot weather now here to stay, you might want to start considering refurbishing your outdoor areas for pleasant afternoons lounging in the sun.

Poolsafe.eu



Are you fed up with your pool cover bubbles peeling off every 3-4 years and needing replacement? Poolsafe.eu now has a 500 micron roller pool cover which is guaranteed by the manufacturers for 8 years. Designed in Australia, with even higher UV readings than the Algarve, the new manufacturing process eliminates the weak spots in the bubble which peel and crack after a few years.

With the prospect of pool safety legislation looming ever larger on the horizon, it is time for all house owners to consider their pool safety requirements. If you rent your house, or have guests or grandchildren around your pool, it is now ever more important to consider their safety. Alistair MacGregor, director of Poolsafe, has lived in the Algarve since 1964.

"Over the years, there have been pool toddler deaths, but these were never put together as a statistic until recently. We now know that the Algarve will probably lose 6 to 8 children in water related deaths every year, and ten times that in near misses and hospitalisations."

Poolsafe specialises in security

pool fencing and access gates. To add to the range of fixed fences such as steel and glass panel, powder coated mild steel, and magna latch gates, they have recently become the sole Algarve agent for the PoolGuard fence range, flexible, removable fences as used in the USA for over 20 years.

Poolguard are also now the Algarve agents for Magnalatch child locks and 'no-step' sprung hinges, for DIY installation on suitable gates. Trade enquiries are welcomed.



Residency warning for UK expats with onshore bank accounts

Ex-pat Britons who maintain existing onshore accounts with UK banks, or who open new ones, are being warned that they could be building a case for HM Revenue & Customs to argue that they are still resident in Britain.

The advice of tax experts follows a number of high-profile court cases and changes to **HMRC's guidance on residency.**

Under HMRC's latest guidance, such things as "what connections you keep in the UK, such as family, property, business and social connections" will be taken into account.

In the past these things were understood to be borne in mind, but the new HMRC guidance "explicitly" spells them out.

"By itself, the setting up of a bank account in the UK is not likely to be fatal" to an expat who is declaring him or herself non-resident.

"But if that bank account is linked to a UK address, which is available for that person's use, then sustaining the argument that you are non-resident might be quite difficult".

Onshore/offshore dilemma

Few UK banks offer onshore accounts to offshore resident Britons, and some that do tend to ask applicants to supply a UK address.

The difficulties involved in keeping and opening onshore bank accounts has prompted an outcry in recent months by some expats, who claim they have been forced to keep their savings in offshore institutions, where they may not enjoy the same level of depositors' protection, because UK banks will not have them.

Some of these expats were among those who lost their savings as a result of the collapse last October of

Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander (Isle of Man) and the Guernsey branch of Landsbanki.

'Valid reason' needed

Some UK banks that offer onshore bank accounts to ex-pats insist on proof of a valid "reason" for wanting to open such an account which does not include wanting to be covered by the UK's depositor protection scheme.

Such reasons could include ownership of a property or business interests that would best be serviced by an onshore bank account.

However, some of the criteria required by banks for a non-resident to open an onshore account may bring expats into conflict with HMRC.

The Grace and Gains Cooper Cases

Two recent court cases have been won which have successfully proved that HMRC can challenge and win if they suspect persons are maintaining connections with the UK.

HMRC tenacity

It should be realized that once the tax authorities begin to get interested in a residency argument, they rarely go away easily.

"HMRC commence residence enquiries with a fairly bland letter. The second and third letters tend to appear clear in their intent, but the devil can be in the detail.

Enquiries are recorded where taxpayers keeping a cat or a golf club membership in the UK making it sufficient for HMRC to continue their 'UK resident' arguments.

So retaining a UK bank account, attached to a UK address, could be fraught with issues if you are subsequently subjected to an HMRC residency enquiry.

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Are we prone to using the internet to diagnose health problems.



Are you obsessed with

After months of the big freeze, spring's finally here and hopefully those winter coughs and sniffles will soon be a thing of the past.

But for many people, the warmer weather will not stop them from worrying about their health.

After pornography, health is reportedly now the second most searched for topic on the internet.

But as we increasingly turn to computers rather than our GPs for diagnosis, a new trend has been identified by experts: cyberchondria.

If you're one of those people who frequently looks up their

symptoms

online and

then panics

at the

diagnosis,

or rather

'search results',

it's possible

that you're

displaying all the hall-

marks of a

cyberchondriac.

There have always been hypochondriacs, those who

fear they have a particular condition despite reassurance to the contrary, but, says psychiatrist and member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, Dr Victoria Lukats, the internet can make the situation worse.

"It's easier to look up symptoms on the internet, whereas in the past you would have had to go to the library or the doctor," she says.

Although cyberchondria is not a medical term, the obsessive searching for symptoms online is a form of 'health anxiety', the umbrella term for conditions like hypochondria.

"It's human nature to worry but it becomes a condition or disorder if it's a preoccupation, if it starts to take over your life. That's the bottom line," says Lukats.

"With health anxiety problems, the more reassurance people seek, the worse it can be. They're only reassured for a few minutes and then they feel worse again and it turns into a vicious circle. So if you're looking things up on the internet all the time, it actually feeds into that cycle."

"The average person develops a new symptom every six days, so having a niggle is not abnormal, it's the interpretation of those symptoms that's the difference."

Can you trust the web?

One of the main problems that cyberchondriac's face is that the web's not always reliable.

A simple search for 'headache' on Google, will produce links to brain tumours.

In reality, only one in 50,000 of us suffer from brain tumours, but the internet could make you believe otherwise.

A recent study by Microsoft demonstrated that 25% of the documents thrown up by a web search for 'headache' pointed to brain tumours as a possible cause.

As many as 8 in 10 of us consult 'Dr Google' for health information, but worryingly 75% don't check the source or the date the information was created, a recent study showed.

Self diagnosis

There's no doubt the internet has transformed the way we approach our own health, you can book appointments online, check symptoms and it's even used by doctors themselves.

The site www.patient.co.uk was set up by GPs wanting members of the public to get access to the same high quality information they were giving to patients in surgery. The site now gets over 1 million visitors a week including those looking for advice about symptoms and conditions or discussing issues such as drug side effects in forums.

Dr Gordon Brooks, Patient UK's site director, says: "People have always been able to look up things in health books but they go out of date. Putting information online allows you keep things immediately up to date."

While authoritative health websites are not an alternative to going to see your doctor, they are being seen as one way to relieve the pressure on the NHS.

A recent report by the doctor-led Self-Care Campaign showed common ailments account for

nearly one fifth of GPs' workload.

"But the danger is people will come across unreliable sites that simply increase anxiety levels rather than provide help," says Dr Brooks.

"They might find the wrong information because there's no quality control over what's on search engines on the net. They're quick but it's not easy to tell whether the information is up to date, reliable and unbiased."

"There's a danger of people putting a symptom in and the results suggesting there's something seriously wrong with you."

But Dr Brooks doesn't believe we're a nation of cyberchondriacs quite yet.

"People are sophisticated, I think they read around the subject and don't immediately think, 'Oh my God, I've got that awful condition'."

"We put the real-life explanations for symptoms at the top of Patient UK searches, rather than web scaremonger rarities."

"If you type in 'headache' it will tell you about the common causes and how to deal with them while alerting you to warning signs of anything more serious. People actually search for advice on things like chicken pox, back pain, indigestion, high blood pressure, depression and diabetes rather than a odd twinge that might prove fatal."

If you have symptoms you're concerned about, nothing can replace a chat with your GP.

While more than half (53%) of us admit to self-diagnosing our illnesses after looking online, according to National Friendly's research, it is impossible to do, says Dr Paul Cundy, the British Medical Association advisor on internet medicine.

He had a patient who was convinced she had to have Prozac.

"She said, 'I've diagnosed myself as being depressed and I need this particular drug'. It was a really difficult case, I almost had to refuse her. Anyone claiming they can diagnose over the internet is wrong."

Dr Cundy does encourage his patients to look up illnesses

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Dr Google?

More people 'Google' health than they do Britney Spears, according to new research. So Kate Whiting shows how do you work out if you're becoming a cyberchondriac or simply playing safe?

online, but says, 'Be sensible'.
"I've dealt with two consultations this morning where patients had found something on the internet and I've said, 'No that's rubbish, you can just ignore it'.
"If you bring in 20 pages of print-outs, that's fine, the doctor will look at it, but some of it will be good and some of it will be bad."

What to do

Being anxious can often actually make us ill and the body mimics the symptoms we're scared of. So try to relax and they may go away.

But if you can't stop Googling and panicking about what you find, you could be suffering from health anxiety, so go and see your GP, advises Dr Cundy.

"It's not so much an internet issue as an issue about the habits the patient is getting into. If it wasn't the internet, they'd be in a library or buying health magazines.

"The doctor should try and alter the patient's habits, and teach them not to be anxious about their health, but it doesn't always work."

If you have health anxiety, your doctor could also refer you for Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) - although the provision of such preventative

resources can be rather thin on the ground.

"The basis of CBT is that people are meant to try and resolve their own anxiety themselves, using relaxation techniques and cognitive techniques rather than asking for constant reassurance.

"The patient might keep a diary of how and when their health anxieties crop up and do an experiment where they say, 'Next time I worry, I'm not going to seek reassurance' and they might find they feel better when they don't seek reassurance. Obviously if people do have a real symptom, they shouldn't ignore it."

Anything that will distract you from your health anxiety like exercise and hobbies can also help, adds Lukats.

"Relaxation techniques are good as well. Anything that makes you feel more anxious will make you worse, so reduce alcohol consumption, cut out illegal drugs, get plenty of sleep and cut out caffeine."

Safe searching

If you are genuinely worried about your health, make sure you visit a reliable site.

Look for the Department of Health's Information Standard logo displayed on sites like Patient UK, which shows it has

been accredited as a provider of high quality health information.

"My advice would be to look around, find sites that appear to be up to date, reliable, written by the right people and have the right ethic behind them of why they're doing it. Once you've found sites that appear to be good, then bookmark and use them," says Dr Brooks.

Tried and trusted medical sites

NHS Direct - This site has handy pictures of the body, and an A-Z of illnesses, so you can choose where it hurts and search for the cause.
www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk.

Patient UK - Set up by doctors who are skilled in explaining complex medical topics in a straight forward way, this site has a comprehensive set of info leaflets, drug information, support groups, forums and you can even book an appointment with your GP.

Medhunt - This is run by the Health on the Net Foundation (HON) to pool results from trusted websites. www.hon.ch/MedHunt.

WebMD - Boots has teamed up with this US site, to provide full, expert health info, plus it has a handy symptom checker. www.webmd.boots.com.



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Step into Spring

Lisa Haynes explains how to hot foot it for this season's must-have heels.



Next tan stud clogs and grey stud slingback clogs - www.next.co.uk

Throw the chunky boots and thick socks to the back of the shoe cupboard. It's that time of year when your feet have no place to hide and pedicures are top of the to-do list.

Spring has arrived and the best place to start on revamping your wardrobe is feet first.

But if the thought of stepping out in flip-flops and sandals is a little too *deja vu* then look to the new shapes to fall head over heels in love with.

From boyish brogue flats to towering clog-style platforms - with the 'halfway heel' in between - there really is a shoe to suit every sole.

Stamp your fashion authority with the styles to be seen in.

Clog capers

Whatever your holiday destination, make sure you're going Dutch with your footwear.

Love them or loathe them, clogs are 'the' trend-led shoe of the summer. Alexa Chung has rarely been spotted without her chunky clogs since being snapped in the must-have heels for the March cover of *Vogue*.

Thank Chanel for the seventies reincarnation of the wooden sole mules - the fashion house sent models clip-clopping down the runway in every style imaginable, including ornate designs embellished with poppies and corsage clusters.

Opt for traditional mule-styles or try slingbacks for added support.

Brogue brigade

If you're bored of ballet pumps, brogues are this season's alternative if you love stomping around in flats.

Models lost a few inches off their lofty heights on the cat-

walks at Paul Smith, Alberta Ferretti and Michael Kors, swapping the customary six-inch platforms for brogues with barely-there heels.

The boyish brogue has become a firm favourite with celebrities, spotted on the likes of flat converts, Sienna Miller, Agyness Deyn and Emma Watson.

Go for vintage-look black, brown or cream styles, or liven up your look with a vibrant splash of colour.

Brogues will instantly give your outfit a super-cool preppy vibe.

Halfway house

Love added height but hate the feet hangover from sky-high heels? The fashion gods have finally answered your prayers...

Stilettoes are still around but the new mid-height heel, or 'halfway heel', is giving them a run for their money in the comfort stakes.

Perfect for taking you from day to night, these practical styles have a chunky, cone-shaped heel that will give you that elusive extra few inches without the "ouch" factor.

Peep show

Bootie aficionados need not have a panic attack about giving up their favourite footwear staple now winter's over and out.

Ankle boots have undergone a summer makeover with softer fabrics and peep-toes - a fashionable form of ventilation for when temperatures rise!

Go for spring-like fabrics such as canvas, suede and slouchy leather in neutral hues.

Best worn with bare legs, the peep-toe bootie is ideal for those who hate flashing their feet but don't forget those all-important manicured toenails.

Wedge wonders

Wedges have been bubbling on the fashion back burner for years but this season they're hot, hot, hot in sandal and bootie styles.

Winning brownie points for their versatility you'll find traditional strappy numbers for high summer, or less foot-exposing options with cut-outs or open-toes for transitional springtime.

Wedges are another means of raising your height without the agony. Add extra leg-lengthening potential by opting for a platform sole.

Is the 'Best job in the

Former banker Manuela Felgueiras has a job that is one-in-a-million - quite literally - as her role at one of the Algarve's most prestigious, five-star luxury resorts was specifically created for her. Manuela is (unofficially) Vila Vita Parc's 'Ambassador for all things Portuguese': her official title, 'Director of Portuguese Hospitality'.

A day's work consists in sourcing national treats and treasures to spoil guests with, as well as showcasing the best of Portuguese brands and the nation's trademark hospitality to enrich the experience of visitors.

"How many people come to Portugal for a holiday and go away without experiencing anything typically Portuguese?" Manuela asks rhetorically, summarising, in a nutshell, what she is responsible for providing.

It is Vila Vita's mission statement to provide a "100 percent Portuguese experience" to guests staying at the resort, and it is Manuela's job to ensure this is as true and enjoyable as possible.

As far as can be established, no other hotel in the country has an employee with a similar duty; public relations managers are plentiful, but a designated Director of Portuguese Hospitality, non-existent.

From the 100 percent Portuguese menus in the resort's restaurants, made with local or national products, to the complementary amenities in rooms, bed-linen and towels, decora-

tive items, and most other things within sight: the best of Portugal was found by Manuela (known to friends and colleagues as Mané) and made available for guests to experience.

"Here in the Algarve we are very rich in terms of culture, but it has been somewhat forgotten", Manuela explains, adding, "We started to absorb a lot of foreignisms, and to some extent lost our own identity. Sea and sand can be found in many places and competition is strong, so we must offer something different".

Vila Vita's philosophy of providing a true taste of Portugal entails many trips to manufacturers and their factories all over Portugal, a large number of which are located in the Northern region. On her mission Manuela has visited Portugal's only pencil-producing factory, Viarco, as well as the only national company to assemble personalised pianos.

However, one of the finds Manuela is most proud of is the complimentary range of Ach. Brito designer cosmetics, placed in guests' bathrooms. Ach. Brito has recently become highly popular in the USA after appearing on the Oprah Winfrey show. While the 'bathroom chic' range of products, including soaps, shower gels, body lotions and hair products, are currently being sold in America's most prestigious shopping malls, in Portugal Ach. Brito has yet to find fame.

"There are so many national brands that abroad are highly acclaimed and here in Portugal are overlooked", Manuela reflects.

But explaining Vila Vita's philosophy and the bi-lateral benefits of a good deal to manufacturers has given its fair share of issues; profit-orientated producers struggle to see the advantages in lowering prices to sell in bulk and be showcased in a resort of

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Country' the future of national tourism?

Vila Vita's calibre, as well as failing to understand the bonuses of being promoted to tourists.

"Producers cannot apply high costs as we are not using their products to promote ourselves; we don't want to stick a Vila Vita label on the bottle. We are promoting them", Manuela reasons, saying "I think there is a certain lack of dynamic in this area".

Another set-back Manuela has encountered is that regional handicraft seems to be dwindling, with traditional artisans being increasingly fewer and further between.

But undeterred, Manuela is resolute in finding new and exciting Portuguese products to offer visitors.

Other courses of action being taken to promote Portugal include painting and pottery workshops with local artists, live demonstrations in sweet-making, and shows featuring national stars. This year, internationally-acclaimed Fado singer Mariza will star in Vila Vita's summer show.

On top of this, Manuela is working in collaboration with regional association ALMARGEM to put together

a brochure of ten different areas in the Algarve "from Alcoutim to Aljezur", in each one highlighting ten must-see attractions "like churches or walks". She is also working closely with employees, to exchange ideas, encouraging them to put forward suggestions for recipes, drinks, and products, and urges staff in sharing the sense of national pride.

"It is important that our employees also feel proud of their culture so they can share their knowledge with others".

With each day that passes Manuela endeavours on her mission with the same enthusiasm and Vila Vita proudly acquires another new dish, dessert, cocktail, complimentary amenity, rug, piece of furniture, or otherwise, "Portuguese, of course". And when a guest leaves proclaiming to have enjoyed their "taste of Portugal", then it is Mission Accomplished.

So it could be somewhat of an understatement to say that Manuela has one of the nicest jobs in the industry, as her role may actually be the way forward for the future of tourism, as well as representing the essence of Portugal.



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The cosy, rustic interior of the Adegas Restaurant on a Fado evening.

A taste of Portugal

For an evening with a difference try Vila Vita's Adegas Restaurant, where excellent service, succulent food and a laid-back atmosphere are complemented by a stunning setting and, at least once a week, traditional Fado music, offering an experience that is 100 percent Portuguese.

Overlooking what is charmingly referred to as 'Swan Lake' (it is a lake, does have swans on it, and is truly enchanting at twilight), the Adegas Restaurant offers typical Portuguese dishes, largely based on grilled meats and national specialities, boasting an à la carte menu of epic creativity.

To round off the typical food and homely atmosphere, on Wednesdays (and throughout summer also on Saturdays), from 20h00 a Fado quartet strikes up, providing melodic background music and traditional entertainment. Contrary to other venues where Fado requires absolute silence and dimmed lights, at the Adegas dinner continues as normal. Those paying attention will note that the quartet enthusiastically play a repertoire of Fado's most famous songs, and always play with the same joviality, whether the restaurant is full or has just one table occupied.

Diners are spoilt for choice by the menu, comprising hot and cold starters, a variety of main dishes, and unusual homemade desserts.

Amongst the mouth-watering starters are dishes such as fresh, marinated goat cheese with honey and rosemary, served with pumpkin compote, best quality 'Pata Negra' black pork from the Alentejo region, clams 'Bulhão Pato' style, and 'chouriço'-sage

flame-grilled with 'Medronho' (firewater). A selection of homemade soups (and not just your everyday tomato or vegetable, but delicious concoctions like Alentejo bread soup with poached egg, coriander and 'Poejo'-cabbage) and interesting salads are also on the menu, for the lighter eater.

But for the more voracious appetite, well-served main meals include a variety of *Cataplãs* (a traditional Algarvean speciality), freshly caught fish, or meaty cuts of beef, lamb and pork reared on Vila Vita's Herdade dos Grous farm in the Alentejo, accompanied with potatoes and fresh vegetables. Both fish and meat dishes can be enjoyed simply and expertly grilled on the restaurant's open grill, or savored in other styles of cuisine, like stewed with rice or oven-roast.

Desserts include local delicacies like regional miniatures made from marzipan; egg-yolk slices and fig cookies. Or sample unusual ice-creams made from Port wine or figs.

In keeping with Vila Vita's mission to offer a true, authentic Portuguese experience, the Adegas Restaurant is the epitome of the best of national cuisine.

For more information or to reservations (particularly recommended for Fado evenings), call Vila Vita on: (+351) 282 310 100.

A traditional Portuguese dish, *bife à Portuguesa*.Flambéed Portuguese sausage, *chouriço*.

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The quartet of Fado musicians.



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FREYA is a beautiful young bitch. She is 1 year old, very sweet and loves company. She has been tested negative for heartworm, fully vaccinated and spayed. She will make a lovely friend if you want to

give her a chance. Call Valerie for a visit 913 860 865 or lili10.evann@yahoo.fr



BOMBOCHA is a beautiful female dog with pointy ears, about 2/3 years old. She is very quiet and gentle. Medium/small size. Will be given dewormed and vaccinated. At the moment she is at Canil Municipal de Lagos - Visiting times: Monday to Friday from 8h30 to 12h00 and from 13h00 to 16h00. Contacts for adoption:

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NINA is a female German Shepherd about 9 years old. She is quite big with brown and black fur. She is at FAT in Lagos. Nina was found wandering the streets. She is very docile, gentle and obedient. She needs to find a good home that loves dogs even one not very young like Nina. She will be given dewormed and vaccinated.

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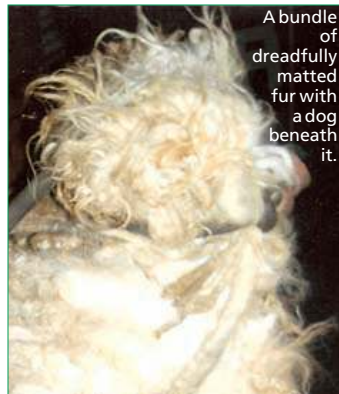
A story of hope

In the last week I spent the most wonderful afternoon with an amazing couple at their oasis of calm set amongst the hills overlooking a river. Their hospitality to me was second to none and the care they bestow on their 'furry visitors' is equally fantastic. We often talk about all the many unsung hero's of the Algarve, this couple are amongst them. At this house were lots of furry friends happily at peace with others, relaxed, playing. Looking into their faces and eyes, they looked at peace—even the ones that had not been with them long. This couple radiate peace and security which these dogs pick up on. All doggy visitors had come from traumatic and horrific circumstances. This couple devote their life to these dogs, to putting them back together in body and mind—the mind however can take years. They will not rehome these dogs until they are sure the dogs can cope. They do all of this because of their love for dogs. How is it that such

homes here, some go to other countries that welcome them and adopt them into loving homes, far away from the traumas they have to try and forget.

I have learnt much during my time living here, in addition to my experience in the UK. Mostly my 'education' here has been in the 'rescued' dogs, I did not come into close proximity to them so much in the UK. These 'rescued' dogs respond to love and care,

A bundle of dreadfully matted fur with a dog beneath it.



traumatised animals can be so trusting, when they have known such hardship. All dogs on arriving are blood tested, treated, vaccinated, sterilised and nurtured back to health. Some find new

special story that needs to be told and this is why this couple contacted me—to tell the story. It started with a white 'speck' in the corner of an eye whilst driving along a road. This thought so both-



The money for this dog's operations and recovery was donated by The Nandi Fund and Apaa.

ered the person that he returned to the white speck. He was eternally glad that he did. It was a bundle of dreadfully matted fur with a dog beneath it, frightened but with piercing black eyes and a black nose. He took the bundle home. This girl was found near to houses and she seemed, on later investigation, to have been there for a few days. She stayed still during the awful task of removing the terrible matted coat—it was a long and distressing job. Worse was to come—once removed, dreadful lumps were found on her body. Straight to the Vet (a very big continued thank you to James Cagney). This poor dog was found to be about 2 years old, the lumps proved to be a cancer and a hernia. Surgery followed at once. She still has to have one more operation. She is recovering well, is now happy, relaxed and being cared for. She will need a loving home in the future. The money for her operations and her recovery was donated by The Nandi Fund and Apaa for which another big thank you.

How did this happen—well it does. I spent ages searching around Algoa while back on the trail of a fluffly—well should have been—sweet Beardie looking dog

in a matted mess, I had again seen it out of the corner of my eye—it is not always feasible to stop the car in the middle of the road. I did not find it. Then the opposite, a Pointer type of dog who had, for some reason, been clipped back so close, its whole body was bleeding—I wept buckets, drove around in a circle but could not find him. He must have been in so much discomfort and pain, poor boy, he was probably hiding somewhere. A few weeks later I did find him again, he had struggled past that and the coat was regrowing.

I shall not forget my time with this lovely couple they, as others, are not a registered charity so rely on us all to help out as we can, with food, medications whatever we can. They are helping so many dogs to put their hard times behind them. A big Thank You, to this wonderful couple from us.

If you can offer any help with rehoming dogs, they have some gorgeous pups, if your own pets want a 'home from home' for a week or so, if you have any spare dog food at all please ring 962 601 925 for further information.

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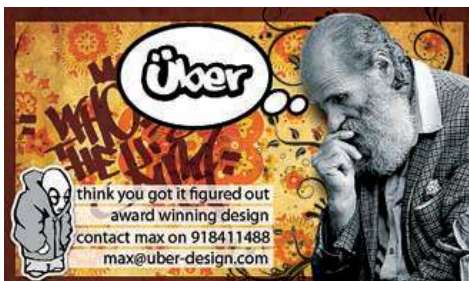
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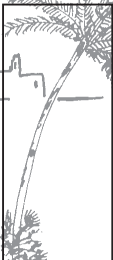
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RIVERSIDE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH Office: Rua São José 178, 1.º dto, Fontainhas, 2750-134 Cascais. Phone: 21 483 6590, Fax: 21 483 6592. Church: ABLA (next to Riviera Hotel), Praceta Infante D. Henrique, N° 80, Quinta do Junqueiro, 2775-584 Carcavelos. We are an interdenominational Christ-centered, contemporary, caring & culturally relevant church meeting at ABLA in Carcavelos each Sunday at 10:30 in English and 18:00 in Portuguese. Creche, children and youth ministries provided.

THE DOOR Christian International Church - meets at Cidade Desportiva, Praceta Carlos Capitulo, Loja "B" Massama / Queluz, every Sunday at 10:30am and 7:00pm- all welcome. For more information call Pastor Frank Escobar at 21-467-3386 or Mobile 919 086 683 God Bless!

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, LISBON (Church of England), Rua S. Jorge. Enter through British Cemetery gate opposite Jardim da Estrela. Sunday School. Service 11.30 am every Sunday. Tel: 21 4692303.

ST PAUL'S CHURCH, ESTORIL (Church of England), Av. Bombeiros Voluntários 59 (behind Hotel Sana Estoril), Sunday School. Service 9.30 am every Sunday. Tel: 21 4692303.

ST. MARY'S, S. PEDRO DO ESTORIL 368 Rua do Murral, Mass each Sunday and Holyday 10.15am Tel: 21 467 3771

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (PRESBYTERIAN) Rua Arriaga, 13, Lisbon: Sun. 11.00. Minister's Tel: 214 837 885, www.standrewslisbon.com.sapo.pt

CASCAIS INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH Av. de Sintra, N° 1154, Cascais (Tel: 21 486 1856). Sunday English worship 10.30 Portuguese at 17.30. An international evangelical fellowship, nursery provided, children's church programme, mid-week bible studies.

THE SALVATION ARMY, LISBON Reboleira Corps (Praceta Almada Negro, Lote 213 Loja Dto do Exército 11), Chelas Corps (Rua Rui de Sousa, Lote 65 A Loja C), Laranjeiras Corps (Bairro de Laranjeiras). At all these corps: Morning Service 9.30am Salvation Meeting 5.00pm Picheleira Corp Rua Capitão Roby, Picheleira, Lisbon

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IGREJA BAPTISTA de Queijas (close to Cascais) Rua Carlos Santos 88, Queijas Near the Olympic Stadium off the A5. Tel: 214 172 087. Sunday Service: English 10:15 / Portuguese 12:00 Prayer and Bible Study: Thursday 8pm Traditional Baptist Service in English followed by Sunday School.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES - Public Talk in English, Rua João de Deus, 76, Sintra. (Behind Sintra train station). Sunday 1.30pm. Tel: 214 690 600. No collection. Also Rua da Barroca, 122 (Bairro Alto), Lisbon. Sunday 11am. Tel: 213 421 604. (Chinese: Saturday 3pm) No collection.

The Algarve

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH, ALGARVE (Member of the Worldwide Anglican Communion) Holy Communion every Sunday for all the family. **Almancil** 10.30am with Adventurers (Sunday school with a difference) and Creche at Almancil Community Centre (ASCA), Lagoa 6pm at Lagoa Convent Chapel. Maps and further information at www.allssaintsalgarve.org or 282 380 311.

ST VINCENT'S ANGLICAN CHURCH part of the Church of England, Diocese in Europe & Anglican Communion. Services every Sunday in our three congregations: 9.30am Igreja N Sra de Fátima, N125 between Quatro Estradas & Almancil, 916879430. 11.30am St Luke's, Górgões (near Sta Barbara), 917267948. 8.00am & 12noon Igreja N Sra da Luz, Praia da Luz, near Lagos + Sunday School, 918824584. www.stvincentsalgarve.org

THE SALVATION ARMY in São Bras de Alportel will hold on the 1st Sunday of each month an International Worship Service at the Salvation Army Citadel in São Bras at 5pm, Rua 25 de Abril, n° 19 (next to the Market).

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP Sunday morning worship at 11am with Sunday School in English & Portuguese for children. Avda 25 de abril 17, Portimão. (opposite the municipal swimming pool/piscina municipal) For more info call 282 461 985 or see <www.coaa.co.uk/cf.htm>

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CHURCH in Lagos invites you to attend its services in English on Sundays at 10.30am. Newfrontiers Sunday School for children. 5 Travessa de Santo Amaro, Lagos, Tel: 282-08604 or 282-697546, www.icc-lagos.org.

INTERNATIONAL EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF THE ALGARVE Warmly welcomes residents & visi-

tors of all nationalities and denominations to their Sunday Services in Vale Judeu at 10.30. See our blue sign on the N125 between the Vilamoura entrance & the Atlântico Waterslide Park. Services in English, creche and Sunday School. For further information: 289 328635.

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Oporto

GREATER GRACE INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP has contemporary Christian gatherings on Sunday afternoons at 3rd Baptist Church, Rua Estacao 133, Porto, & Saturday evenings on the 1st floor at Confeitaria Palacio, Porto (across from the "Emergency" entrance of Hospital Santo Antonio); for meeting times, details and updated schedule visit www.NovaAurora.com, call 220 994 785 or send an SMS to 917 112 736.

RIVERSIDE PORTO INTERNATIONAL CHURCH - Oporto. A church that is fun and enriching; Bible based and relevant. Caring, supportive and international. Interdenominational meetings from 6pm Sundays at 1642 Avenida Sacadura Cabral, Aguda, VNG, between Aguda railway station and Miramar golf course. Call Tina or Bill Mason on 227 627 643 or 914 949 611 contact@riversideporto.com or www.riversideporto.com

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH, ANGLICAN CHAPLAINCY OF OPORTO. Largo da Maternidade, Júlio Dinis. Sun. 11am Details from Chaplain (22) 609 1006. www.stjamesoportop.org

THE SALVATION ARMY OPORTO Pereira Corps (Av. Vasco da Gama No: 675-2 E Ramalde), Service 10am, Salvation Meeting 5.00pm. Colares Corps. (Av. dos Bombeiros Voluntários; Tel: 22 929 1077) Sun. 10am. Thurs 4.00pm Ladies Home League Meeting.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES - Public Talk in English. Praça Don Afonso V, 168. Sunday 10.30am. Tel: 226 160 976. No collection.

Caldas da Rainha

ANGELICAN EVENING WORSHIP IN ENGLISH. On the SECOND Sunday of each month, 6.00pm in the Evangelical Baptist Church, Rua Dr. José Soudade e Silva 27/29, between Caldas da Rainha railway station and Pingo Doce. NB now Second Sunday monthly.

For details please phone 262 881 393. **JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES** - Public Talk in English. Rua Adelino Amaro da Costa, next to CERCIPI. 2520 Peniche, Obidos. Sunday 11am (1st & 2nd Sunday of the month). No collection.

All the Algarve set to meet again at this year's International Algarve Fair



It is now firmly established on the Algarve calendar as the annual event the foreign community waits for with eager anticipation; the dates have been confirmed, the agenda's bursting and the stands practically sold-out. It is official – the International Algarve Fair is almost upon us!

Created from the idea of being a fun day out for all the family, based on the concept of a traditional country fête, organisers of the International Algarve Fair will once again fill up the FATACIL fairground in Lagoa, on the weekend of June 5th and 6th.

The event's organisers have, over recent years, strived to of-

fer more than just an enjoyable, colourful outing and again, this year, they have achieved their mission by outdoing all previous events, coming up with a week-end of captivating entertainment for all family members, including those with four legs.

Back by remarkable demand, is the Algarve Dog Show, bigger,

better and bolder than before.

Prior glitches have been ironed out with the help of Dog Show organisers Paws 4 Pets, to offer dog lovers and their pets a day of fun learning, training, top tips, and of course, the chance to win coveted prizes in an array of categories, including 'Dog with the X-Factor – Best Tricks', 'Doggy with the best Eyes' and 'The Big Heart Award'.

For the first time ever a blood drive will be held for generous donors willing to make a difference to someone else's life.

A range of live workshops and demonstrations will also be staged, covering subjects from massages to fashion and cooking, complementing the hundreds of stands and popular Arts & Crafts stalls. Learn 'how to' and 'how not to' from the International Algarve Fair's experts on hand.

Another new introduction will be the Business+ Zone; an area dedicated to business wheeling and dealing, located inside the pavilion alongside the car show.

There will be a new and improved Wine Show, featuring a number of regional producers and



national produce, and sports clubs will be showcasing a variety of sports and activities.

Schoolchildren from across the Algarve will be displaying their artistic talents in this year's Children's Art Competition, with prizes including mobile phones, sponsored by mobile network Optimus and The Portugal News' sister company World Telecom.

As always the food court and arena will be where the main entertainment happens, with an ever-growing, diverse variety of eateries and watering holes providing flavoursome food and much-needed refreshment, alcoholic and otherwise. Cocktails, caipirinhas, curries, chicken piri-piri, crepes, cakes, coffees and so much more can be savoured from morning till night.

Also by popular demand there will be entertainment but this year it will carry on until well after the fair closes, giving

late-arrivals or night owls the chance to dine at leisure and be entertained until 22h30. It also provides the opportunity to 'make a night of it', get dressed up, have a meal and a dance or a sing-along. Fingers crossed the weather will be glorious!

A brilliant entertainment line-up is in the planning, including children's entertainment, singing, dancing, as well as live music at night on the main stage, and the return of the hugely acclaimed International Algarve

Fair parade.

And, if all of that is not enough, as always, the International Algarve Fair is holding a grand prize draw, which this year boasts as its star prize an amazing Mediterranean cruise for two, courtesy of Royal Caribbean International. But you have to visit the fair and be in it to win it!

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Flurry of goals in Liga Sagres

Braga were the first team to play over the weekend, in a derby against fourth-placed Vitória de Guimarães, who needed the victory to edge closer to Sporting. The match was a nightmare for the referee, who handed out a total of four red and five yellow cards throughout the match, but mostly in the final twenty minutes.

The away team was the first to score thanks to Rui Miguel after twenty minutes. Braga answered back just before half time with a penalty kick, taken by Alan, a decision highly contested by Vitória de Guimarães players. Three more penalties were given in the second half, the first giving Braga the lead, followed by another from Andrezinho in injury time making the scores even and the final penalty providing Braga with the victory, seven minutes into injury time.

Sporting gave Rio Ave a thrashing on the same night, beating the eleventh placed team by 5-0, with a hat-trick from Yannick Djalo and the other two thanks to Liedson and João Moutinho.

On Saturday, although Marítimo scored a goal within the first minute of play, FC Porto

answered back immediately and were ahead 2-1 before ten minutes had passed. Falcão became the best scorer of the Liga Sagres (20 goals) as he scored two, his first being one of the best goals of the season, a bicycle kick from inside the box, flying past Peçanha. Raúl Meireles and Hulk scored the other two, with the match ending 4-1 and FC Porto still hoping for a slip up from Braga in order to take second place.

Benfica had their Liga Sagres match on Monday night, having rested from their tremendous UEFA Europa League victory against Liverpool.

Things did not start well for the 'Reds', as Naval scored on their first attack (Fábio Júnior; 2') and doubled their lead ten minutes later (Bolívia; 12'). However, Benfica showed great determination and strength and pulled back their two goal deficit in ten minutes with two goals from Weldon. Di Maria put Benfica ahead before the half time whistle and Cardozo sealed the game in the second half, a goal that was important to the player as he tied with Falcão as top scorer of the Liga Sagres.



A total of 21 goals were scored by the top four teams' matches last weekend, with the point difference remaining unchanged between them. Benfica still lead the table six ahead of Braga with 64 points, followed by FC Porto (53) and Sporting (41).



Cardoso of Benfica challenges Naval's Gomis during their game on Monday at José Bento Pessoa Stadium in Figueira da Foz. (Photo: Lusa / Pualo Novais)

Unfit Portuguese?

Over half of the Portuguese population does not practise any sport whatsoever, the third highest value in the European Union, according to a study from the European Commission revealed in Brussels last week.

The 'Eurobarometer survey on EU citizens' sport and physical activity habits' has revealed that only nine percent of Europeans practise sport regularly, 21 percent rarely and 39 percent never, with Portugal's statistics well superior of the EU average on the latter, with 55 percent of the Portuguese admitting they never practise sport.

In Portugal, nine percent said they practise sport regularly (at least five times per week), 24 percent at least once a week, 11 percent rarely and the majority, a staggering 55 percent, admit to never practise any sport.

Among the 27 countries of the EU, Portugal is in third position, tied with Italy, with the highest

amount of people not practising sport, surpassed only by Greece (67 percent) and Bulgaria (58 percent). The most common justifications given for not practising sport are not having enough time (37 percent) and being too expensive (13 percent).

The European Commissioner for Education, Culture and Youth, Androulla Vassiliou, announced that measures will be taken in 2010 to encourage Europeans to make sport and physical activity an essential part of their lives. These measures will be presented in the European Parliament, accompanied by a proposal of a new programme related to sport that will support projects and complement the policies of the individual 27 member countries of the EU.

The European survey was completed in October 2009, with 26,778 people interviewed in all 27 countries of the EU, of those 1,031 were in Portugal.

Portugal climbs the ranks

Portugal are now in fourth place of the FIFA World Rankings, equalling their best position ever, which was held in March 2001 and February 2002.

FIFA released its March rankings on the last day of the month, with Portugal having received an extra thirteen points and climbing from sixth to fourth position. The front three (Spain, Brazil and Holland) maintain a strong lead.

In 2001 and 2002 the Portugal national squad, managed at the time by António Oliveira, did not pass the group stages of the South Korea/Japan World Cup.

The top ten teams of the FIFA Rankings, released on March 31st, are as follows: Spain (1,602 points); Brazil (1,589); Holland (1,261); Portugal (1,214); Italy (1,183); Germany (1,120); England (1,120); France (1,077); Argentina (1,075) and Croatia (1,051).

SUPERLEAGUE FIXTURES WEEK 26

MATCH	DATE	TIME	TV
Naval-Nacional	Friday	20h15	SportTV1
U.Leiria-Braga	Saturday	19h15	SportTV1
Rio Ave-FC Porto	Saturday	21h15	RTP1
Leixões-P.Ferreira	Sunday	16h00	
Marítimo-Belenenses	Sunday	16h00	
Guimarães-Olhaneense	Sunday	20h15	SportTV1
V.Setúbal-Académica	Monday	20h15	SportTV1
Benfica-Sporting	Tuesday	20h45	SportTV1

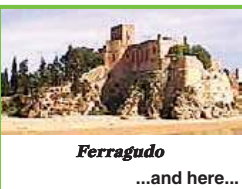
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